Hafa Adai!

Petition seeks support for right-hand drive vehicles in NMI. PAGE 2
JKPL's young readers take to the sands in sculpting competition. PAGE 3

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IN DROPPING COVID-19 TESTING REQUIREMENT

'CNMI likely to follow US lead'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Effective last Sunday, the United States completely lifted its policy of requiring all incoming international travelers to submit a negative COVID-19 test result before boarding and the CNMI will likely follow suit.

See CNMI on Page 4

DPS chief's motion to dismiss denied

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero's motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed against him by the Office of the Attorney about alleged illegal overtime compensation has been denied.

Guerrero

In his motion to dismiss, Guerrero, through his lawyer, Matthew Gregory, argued that the complaint filed by the OAG is time-barred pursuant to CNMI law, specifically 7 CMC § 2503(b), due to a statute of limitation of two years.

That section provides a two-year statute of limitations for "actions

See DPS on Page 4

'Torres looking forward to his day in court'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The jury trial date for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' criminal case in Superior Court has been pushed back from July 5 to a date that has yet to be determined by the court. However, Torres' defense counsel says the governor is ready for his day in court, whenever that may be.

See TORRES on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

OCEAN FAIR
Children and families are seen looking at and learning about sea turtles at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' sea turtle program booth at the Ocean Fair last Saturday in honor of Ocean Month. LEIGH GASES

DESPITE STRONG OPA OPPOSITION

House passes bill to exempt CPA airport revenues from 1% OPA fee

» Sablan, Staffler, Propst vote 'no'
» Peter says enacting bill without FAA's definitive answer does not represent good governance

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

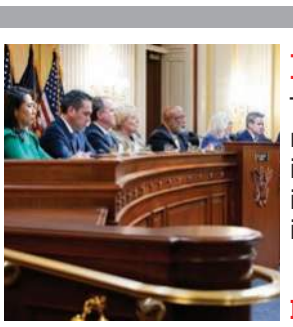
Despite the strong opposition of the Office of the Public Auditor, the House of Representatives passed yesterday with amendments a bill that would exempt the Commonwealth Ports Authority from paying the 1% OPA fee with respect to CPA's airport revenues.

See HOUSE on Page 4

INSIDE

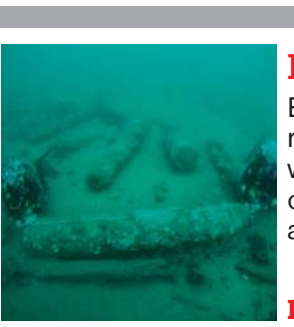
BUSINESS
La Mesa Kusina, a Filipino-Mexican fusion restaurant, opens in Chalan Kanoa.

PAGE 11



NATION
The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 riot is delving deeper into "the big lie."

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE
Explorers and historians are telling the world about the discovery of the wreck of a royal warship.

PAGE 15

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Local

Petition seeks support for right-hand drive vehicles in NMI

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A petition started by CNMI resident Harry Wilcox is currently circulating on social media for the government to look into allowing right-hand drive vehicles to be registered and driven in the CNMI.

As a right-hand drive owner himself, Wilcox believes that this an opportunity for lawmakers to come together and that people would support.

"To legalize RHD vehicles in the CNMI is in line with federal guidelines. Federally, there is an exemption for RHD vehicles to be licensed and registered if over 25 years old. The CNMI does not recognize this exemption and has a blanket policy of not being able to register RHD vehicles, making them illegal," he said in the petition.

"This is not in line with any other of the 50 states or U.S. territories. Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and all of the states enjoy the benefit of being able to legally register and drive these roads on public roads. …This recognition of federal law would come at no cost to the CNMI. It does not affect federal funding or require any additional process," he added.

The petition, which only got started at 9am yesterday, is asking for 500 signatures from people in the CNMI. As of 3pm, it was already at the halfway mark with 286 signatures. They are still accepting signatures as of press time. "I can generate enough enthusiasm as there are a lot of beneficial aspects of driving RHD. … These vehicles are perfect for this island—great mileage, low cost, and easy maintenance," Wilcox said.

"Imagine, a landscape worker [can] have a right-hand drive truck in good condition, 35 mpg and with aircon for less than $4K. …With the soaring gas prices, the timing couldn't be more perfect as right-hand drives have lower impact and smaller footprint. The ease in maintenance is also there because there are less electronics," He added.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, importing right-hand drive vehicles into the CMMI is not allowed unless the vehicle legally entered the Commonwealth prior to Dec 30, 1991, or if the vehicle's primary use is for agricultural or construction. Last year, Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) introduced a bill that seeks to allow right-hand drive vehicles that are 25 years or older to be imported and registered in the CNMI.

Like Wilcox, Lizama pointed out that most U.S. states allow the importation and registration of RHD vehicles, some with stipulations regarding use, but largely recognizing the federal allowances for such vehicles. "Guam has many RHD vehicles and is enjoying the benefit and practicality of such vehicles for island use… The CNMI falls under the same federal stipulation for federal funding regarding its traffic programs and grants as Guam, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico," he said. "If these territories have experienced no losses to its funding for recognizing the federal regulations on these vehicles, it stands to reason that the CNMI would be under the same allowances."

Wilcox said that this change would allow CNMI residents to import collectors vehicles for show and everyday use, stressing that it would allow island residents access to a supply of dependable, fuel-efficient vehicles to use on the islands. "Guam has huge clubs of RHD vehicles and so there are many on the road. They have been really successful there, so why can't we have the same benefits?"

GOING FOR THE GOLD

With only three days left until the Opening Ceremony of the Pacific Mini Games2022, teams from different countries have already started to arrive in the CNMI, including the Palau baseball team (show above). The Pacific Mini Games will begin this Friday through June 25. A full schedule of the games and other information about the events are on the games' official website at https://northernmarianas2022.com/ The games will also be streamed live on the Pacific Mini Games YouTube site at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6TyDfq-l0Rh-7_Ei53k0o5g

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili co-sponsors 2 bills that address mass shooting

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is a co-sponsor of two gun safety legislations that the U.S. House of Representatives passed this week to address the mass shooting epidemic in the nation.

Sablan

Sablan said in his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend that the House had passed commonsense legislation that would protect the nation's children, schools, workplaces, and public spaces from mass shootings.

He said that representatives, most of them Democrats, supported last Wednesday the passage of H.R. 7910, or the Protecting Our Kids Act package, while H.R. 2377, or the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, was passed on Thursday, also mostly by Democrats in the House. The two bills now head to the Senate for consideration.

The delegate said H.R. 7910 raises the lawful age to purchase a semi-automatic, centerfire rifle from 18 to 21 years old. H.R. 7910 also establishes a new federal offense for the import, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of large capacity magazines, and ensures ghost guns (firearms made using 3D printing) are subject to existing federal firearm regulation.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) introduced H.R. 7910 last May 31. This bill makes various changes to federal firearms laws, including to establish new criminal offenses and to expand the types of weapons and devices that are subject to regulation.

H.R. 2377, or the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order, introduced by Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA) on April 8, 2021, allows family members and law enforcement to obtain an extreme risk protection order to temporarily remove access to firearms for those who are deemed a danger to themselves or to others by a federal court.

A federal extreme risk protection order is a federal court order that prohibits a person from purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition.

The bill also expands the categories of those who are prohibited from purchasing, shipping, transporting, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition. It adds, as a new category, persons who are subject to an extreme risk protection order.

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JKPL's young readers take to the sands in sculpting competition

LEIGH GASES

Division of Coastal Resource Management staff and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library staff are joined by Miss Earth NMI Crystal Fiona Rio and the library's Children of the Summer reading program after their sand sculpting competition in honor on the shores of Sandy Beach Homes last Wednesday

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Young participants of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Children's Summer Reading Program took to the shores behind Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa last Wednesday, June 8, for a sand sculpting competition that also celebrated CNMI Oceans Day.

Done in partnership with the Division of Coastal Resource Management, the sculptures were judged based on the criteria of being in line with the summer reading program's theme "Oceans of Possibilities," which incorporates marine animals, originality and creativity, detail and use of space, and teamwork. The prizes were movie passes and beach chairs.

The first-place winner was the "Bikini Bottom" sculpture made by Stephan Li, Elita Li, Keoni Ruszala, Leilani Ruszala, Keara Crisostomo, David Bercilla and team leaders Miranda Marian and Valerie Naputi. For their prize, they received one item from a display case of toys donated by Lollipops, one $15 gift certificate to 670 Rocksteady, one Docomo Pacific beach chair, and one movie pass sponsored by Friends of JKPL.

The second-place winner was the "Library Turtle" sculpture made by Noah Balisalisa, Evan Balisalisa, Ava Dela Cruz, Jesse Dela Cruz, Grayden Ngiralmau and team leaders Yuteng Chen and Leora Terlaje, who each received one movie pass, courtesy of the Friends of JKPL.

The third-place winner was the "Jelly Fish with the Mask" sculpture made by Tristan Que, Chloe Shin, Dana Hwang, Katherine Hwang, Emma Long, Nia Que, Eldrian Calibo, and team leaders Share Fernando, Pauline Viray, Aaron Cayading, and Chelsea Gozun. They each received one movie pass, courtesy of the Friends of JKPL.

Marlyn Naputi, coral reef initiative communications coordinator from DCRM, said, "This was what we thought was one of the fun ways for us to get together and celebrate the ocean… JKPL's theme this summer is "Oceans of possibilities'', while DCRM's theme is "Our ocean, our responsibility" so I think it was perfect for this collaboration to happen. It's just a fun way to celebrate June 8, which is World Oceans Day."

DCRM director Richard Salas thanked the contest organizers. "We're trying to capitalize on that partnership. When it comes to managing our ocean resources, that's what our office is mandated to do," he said. "…t's important to work with our partners, both public and private and nonprofit to ensure that our common goal here is to protect our resources for our future generations."

Torres suggests creating special account for athletes representing NMI worldwide

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres suggests that lawmakers look into assisting athletes who represent the CNMI at the highest level by creating a special account for them.

During a press briefing Friday about some CNMI athletes winning gold, silver, and bronze medals in the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships, Torres congratulated them for representing the CNMI at the highest level of sports competition.

"To everyone, regardless of what place you place when you wave our flag, leaving CNMI to represent, you are our best. And I want to thank you, your family, your coaches, who put sweat and love into the sport," he said.

The CNMI's athletes at the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships in Mackay, Australia—Orrin Pharmin, Tania Tan, and Tiana Cabrera—were medalists at the competition.

Pharmin won a gold medal after winning the masters high jump. He also got a gold medal in the 110m hurdles, bronze in the javelin, and silver in the shotput, 60m, 100m, 200m, and 400m.

Torres

Tan was the first to give the CNMI its first gold in the 10-kilometer run. She also settled for a silver in the 5,000m run.

Cabrera won a bronze medal in the U18 3,000m run.

To those who are able to win gold, silver, and bronze medals, the governor urged them to continue to push because they have a special talent and that the CNMI should be part of their journey.

"We should start looking into their success and giving them the opportunity. If they go to college, let's push for that," he said.

Torres said the CNMI should have a special sports scholarship to let these outstanding athletes go around the world and represent the CNMI.

Hopefully, when these outstanding athletes reach that professional level, if they come back they will start teaching the children of the next generation, he said.

"I always believe that our folks here have the talent and have the heart…to compete around the world," he said.

Torres said the CNMI should showcase this kind of talent not just in the Pacific but around the world.

He said they are seeing scholarships around the nation being given to CNMI soccer players so they could represent different states. "I hope the Legislature is listening and maybe we should start looking at promoting and putting a special account for our athletes who go out there and represent CNMI at the highest level," the governor said.

$15M Small Business Assistance program to roll out next month

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance will roll out next month the $15-million Small Business Assistance program that will help small businesses get a forgivable loan, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

Speaking at the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee hearing last Wednesday on his department's budget for fiscal year 2023, Atalig said the Small Business Assistance program is similar to U.S. Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, in which small businesses can apply for funding to help for their operations or their payroll inventory.

"The whole idea is to help them boost their business so that they can be in a position that their business is doing well as well as we…fully close out the pandemic," he said.

Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his office will be releasing more information about the program.

Atalig

SBA's PPP helps small businesses that have been affected by the COVID-19, so that they can avoid laying off their employees.

The Finance secretary said their SBA program is an option for these small businesses to come and apply for funds. The administration has set aside $15 million in American Rescue Plan Act money for this.

Atalig said they are so excited to help small businesses that did not avail of other federal assistance programs.

Even prior to ARPA, the private sector had a lot of opportunities under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to help businesses get through the pandemic.

In terms of helping people, Atalig said that's what the local stimulus program did. He said it wasn't just government employees or healthcare workers, but every resident had the opportunity to get some assistance. Atalig said this coming second local stimulus will do the same.

HOUSE

From Page 1

With 15 representatives voting "yes" and three voting "no," House Bill 22-102, HS1 now goes to the Senate for similar passage. House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is the main author of the bill.

The three who voted "no" were Reps. Christina E. Sablan, Leila F. Staffler, and Edwin K. Propst. All are Democrats representing Saipan. Two representatives were absent. Minority leader Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) voted "yes" but "with deep reservations."

During the public portion at the start of the session, Public Auditor Kina B. Peter asked House members not be pressured into voting for a legislation that is very impactful to a CNMI regulatory agency.

Villagomez

"Again, I ask that this legislative body allow OPA as a regulatory agency of the CNMI to function and exist without the continued threat of its funding and independence," Peter said.

The public auditor said that enacting this legislation without a definitive answer from the Federal Aviation Administration whether CPA's payment of the 1% OPA fee is revenue diversion does not represent good governance.

Peter said CPA has undertaken this effort to change this law when they are currently faced with at least 18 FAA non-compliance and unresolved audit findings, all of which could potentially place CPA's funding at risk.

None of those, she said, represent findings that have to do with CPA's current obligations to pay OPA's 1% fee.

Peter said FAA officials have appeared before the House on behalf of CPA to change CNMI laws, when the FAA has never made any affirmative finding that payment by CPA would constitute a revenue diversion.

Peter

"While they were willing to explain what sort of fee arrangement would be allowed for FAA reimbursement, they could not provide a final determination whether OPA's fixed fee is indeed a violation of FAA statute," the public auditor said.

She said the five-year sunset provision in the bill is excessive as it should not take that period to obtain a final decision from FAA.

Peter said five years is not equitable to other autonomous agencies and public corporations that have to absorb their share of OPA's 1% fee.

Before the House passed the bill, 15 representatives voted "yes" and three voted "no" to Villagomez's floor amendment to the bill. Sablan, Staffler, and Propst voted against the floor amendment.

Villagomez moved to delete the lines that state that "this exemption is subject to a sunset provision of five years from the effective date of this act or for the agency's time to obtain a clear determination from federal grantors as to whether the payment of the 1% public auditor fee from airport revenues is revenue diversion or not."

The speaker also moved to delete the word "temporarily" and the sunset clause in its entirety.

Before voting to pass the bill, Villagomez said he attended two meetings with CPA, OPA, FAA, and two House members, and the main issue is the revenue diversion. Villagomez said it was mentioned that that OPA fee is not really a noncompliance, but that his understanding is it's because that fee has never been remitted.

"So how do you say something is revenue diversion when you haven't diverted it," he pointed out.

Villagomez said the airport is important to the CNMI's economy, not only for commercial reasons, but also for residents and people that travel for all kinds of reasons.

Sablan thanked Demapan and Staffler for raising the question whether they could wait for some further clarification about the revenue diversion issue.

"I certainly have no issues with that. That would be my preference, quite honestly," Sablan said.

She said OPA really wants time to get that answer from FAA, and that she knows that process has begun. Sablan said she believes there are meetings that are supposed to happen in the next couple of weeks.

"I have no objection to leaving this on the calendar. Maybe we could get an answer sooner rather than later," said Sablan, adding that she hopes they be able to get an answer sooner than the three years or five years that were originally proposed.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TORRES

From Page 1

Torres and his entire defense team appeared yesterday before judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino at the CNMI Superior Court for a case management conference.

During the conference, Tolentino informed the parties that he needed more time to address the pending motions before him, including the motion to disqualify the attorney general, and the motion to dismiss the case entirely for "selective and vindictive prosecution."

The court initially scheduled a jury trial on July 5 but, after informing the parties that he needed more time to rule on the pending motions before him, Tolentino vacated the July 5 trial date and converted that day to a trial setting conference.

Torres' lawyers said in a joint statement that Torres looks forward to the jury trial, whenever the date may be, but only asks that the court give him ample time to free at least two weeks of his schedule for it.

"Governor Torres looks forward to his day in court, but respects the court's order and appreciates the attention that the court is giving to the very serious motions that are before it," the lawyers said.

Viola Alepuyo, Victorino Torres, and Anthony H. Aguon represented Torres in his case management conference yesterday; while Office of the Attorney General chief solicitor Robert Glass, and assistant attorney general Steve Kessel represented the prosecution.

Aside from vacating the July 5 trial date, Tolentino also vacated the motion hearing for June 21, and instead scheduled a status conference for the date. Parties were ordered to submit their proposed jury instructions, witness list, and exhibit lists before the conference.

In addition, the parties must be prepared to submit their proposed *voir dire* questions and to discuss potential notice of expert witnesses.

The judge also ordered the prosecution to submit their oppositions to the defense's motions by June 20, while replies are due on June 29. The hearing on all motions and oppositions is now set for June 30, at 9am.

The court also granted the defense' request for Chamorro and Carolinian interpreters during trial.

DPS

From Page 1

against the director of Public Safety, a police officer or other person duly authorized to serve process, for any act or omission in connection with the performance of official duties." Guerrero's lawyer argued that Guerrero's receipt of the alleged "emergency pay" overpayments was "in connection with the performance of [his] official duties" because the emergency pay was derived from his work as commissioner of Public Safety.

In his order, judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino explained that after applying the ordinary meaning of the terms "act" and "omission" to the statute, receiving "emergency pay" overpayments is neither an act or omission of Guerrero's duties as commissioner and therefore it does not apply in this case.

"Although the parties appear to focus on whether the court should read the phrase 'in connection with' broadly or narrowly to determine whether the commissioner's salary may be considered 'in connection with' the performance of his official duties, the court instead looks to the phrase 'act or omission.' Applying the ordinary meaning of these terms to the statute, the plain language of 7 CMC § 2503(b) evinces the intent of the Legislature to time-bar lawsuits brought against the commissioner for his performance of, or failure to perform, his official duties. Receiving a salary or overpay is neither an 'act' nor an 'omission' of the commissioner's duties; it is merely incidental to his job," he said.

Instead, the court found that 7 CMC § 2505, which applies a six-year statute of limitations instead of two, is more applicable in this case.

"Assuming arguendo that plaintiff's cause of action accrued on the date of the first alleged overpayment made to defendant, plaintiff would have six years from Nov. 26, 2018, to bring this action, or until Nov. 26, 2024. Accordingly, plaintiff's complaint was timely filed, and defendant's motion to dismiss is denied," Tolentino said.

According to court documents, the OAG alleges that Guerrero received excessive compensation in the form of "typhoon emergency premium compensation, overtime, or extra pay" for work he performed during Super Typhoon Yutu and its aftermath.

Specifically, the complaint alleges that Guerrero received $46,892.96 in excess of his base annual salary of $54,000 due to receiving typhoon emergency premium pay at a rate of 2.5 times his base salary in fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

As relief, the OAG seeks to recover the $46,892.96 paid to Guerrero in excess of his base salary in fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

CNMI

From Page 1

According to a brief statement from Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. spokesperson Guillermo Lifoifoi, it is nearly a guarantee that the CNMI, like the United States, will completely lift the need for a negative COVID-19 test result for unvaccinated international travelers.

"[This is] highly likely as we act in accordance with U.S. policies," he said.

According to international media outlets, the United States' international testing policies came to an end last June 12.

Currently, inbound international travelers are required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test prior to departure for Saipan.

As for COVID-19 safety protocols in the CNMI, the CNMI has since lifted the need for on-arrival COVID-19 testing; fifth day testing remains optional for vaccinated travelers.

Both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers must still fill out a health declaration form before entering the CNMI but, unlike vaccinated travelers, unvaccinated individuals will be given a registration code for fifth day testing.

"All travelers must fill out a health declaration form before they enter the CNMI. But unvaccinated travelers must test after five days. Once they register to fill out a declaration form, they will be given a code that registers them for fifth day testing," CHCC CEO Esther Muña said in a previous interview.

Vaccinated essential workers are no longer quarantined but unvaccinated workers must fill out a quarantine application form before entering the CNMI.

"There is now an essential worker application form for quarantine but this only applies to unvaccinated workers. Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine. Once they enter, they are free to leave and go to work," Muña had said.

According to Dr. Lily Muldoon, medical director of public health and CHCC emergency physician, the shift in protocols is to focus on medically significant community infections instead of border surveillance.

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Hotel occupancy in the CNMI at 31% in May

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 31% average occupancy rate among its 12 member-hotels in May 2022, compared to 12% average occupancy in May 2021.

A total of 13,940 of 45,224 available room nights sold during May 2022, compared to 4,107 of 35,866 available rooms sold in May 2021. Average room rates were $140.28 compared to $143.21 last May.

"With the lifting of further travel restrictions in South Korea recently, May was another month of small gains for hotel occupancy in the Marianas, and we anticipate June to also be slightly stronger due to the Pacific Mini Games," said HANMI chair Ivan Quichocho. "However, in order to continue this forward momentum toward economic recovery, it is imperative to ensure that the Marianas Visitors Authority receives significant funding in the new fiscal year to continue its marketing and promotions in Korea, Japan—which should start direct flights to Saipan this summer—Taiwan, and other markets. This is the only way to continue Marianas economic recovery as competing destinations also open up."

Quichocho is also a member of the MVA board of directors.

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical report are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, Surfrider Resort Hotel, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The occupancy rates do not include venue rentals at Kanoa Resort Saipan for government COVID-19 quarantine accommodations.

HANMI was was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(HANMI)***

Apatang disappointed over 'drastic' cuts in budget request

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang is disappointed with the $2.2 million that was cut from the Saipan Mayor's Office budget request for fiscal year 2023.

At the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee hearing on the his office's budget, Apatang said they submitted a detailed budget request to the Office of Management and Budget last Feb. 24 and detailed what they will need to continue performing and delivering public service to Saipan residents. For fiscal year 2023 budget, they asked for $4.2 million, Apatang said.

However, based on what the Executive Branch eventually submitted to the House, it shows that the Executive Branch reduced their budget by $2.2 million, he added.

Not only is this reduction a drastic cut to the budget they would need to continue operating next fiscal year, but the Executive Branch zeroed out their operation budget, Apatang said.

He said the fiscal year 2023 budget that the Executive Branch submitted to the House in the amount of $1.9 million is only for personnel.

Apatang

"You make your honest assessment whether keeping this island you call home safe and clean and beautiful it is today with a… budget of $1.9 million hat the Executive Branch determined will be sufficient to do so, or we will be kidding ourselves if we believe that notion," the mayor said.

He said the Executive Branch stated in a message about the fiscal year 2023 budget that the Mayor's Office should maximize the use of the American Rescue Plan Act money.

Apatang said what everyone needs to understand is that the use of ARPA state and local fiscal recovery plans money should benefit the island in the long term by spending it on improving infrastructure and public utilities like roads, social halls, port facilities, public restrooms and others.

Apatang said they need to maximize the once-in-a-lifetime funding opportunity that the federal government has generously given to the CNMI to fix and repair badly needed infrastructure and public facilities.

"We might not have another shot in the future at spending millions to make those improvements. When we build improvements that will last a long time and reap the benefits over the years, that is what we must term as 'maximizing our limited resources,'" he said.

500 Sails thanks coalition vs domestic & sexual violence

500 Sails is grateful and acknowledges the critical role that the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence advocates play in providing timely support to those affected by sexual and domestic violence.

500 Sails board president Emma Perez says the coalition was extremely helpful to her organization when an after-hours incident led to charges of sexual assault involving people who work together at 500 Sails.

"I cannot begin to describe the shock that we all felt and the range of thoughts and emotions as we tried to process the news," said Perez. "We were deeply and personally affected, not only by what had happened, but by the pain it was causing our workplace family that is very close. Most of us were not sure how to respond—we did not want to make it worse for those who were clearly suffering."

Perez reached out to the coalition for advice and to ask if they could come to the workplace and speak to the staff. She recognized that the right guidance, early in the process, could make a big difference. Maisie Tenorio and Kiki Benjamin from the coalition were there the next morning.

"Maisie and Kiki addressed the staff in a classroom at the boatyard. They were sympathetic and understanding of how difficult it can be to talk about such things, especially with the diversity of culture, age, and gender in the room," said Perez. "With their guidance we were able to have a conversation we needed to have."

Perez says the experience has reinforced her belief that the only way we can fix the problem of sexual assault in the community is to face it head-on. "Avoiding talking about it leaves victims isolated and without the support they need to recover. Pretending it doesn't happen ensures that nothing changes, that behaviors that lead to assault will continue, and that the discussions that lead to action never happen." She encourages anyone faced with a sexual assault situation to remember that they are not alone and that help is available.

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence can be reached at 670-234-3878 or via Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/EndViolenceNMI. ***(500 Sails)***

Taste of the Marianas food festival sets contests

The 23rd Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in June 2022 on Saipan is now accepting applicants for a number for contests highlighting local food.

This year's festival will be held on June 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26, at the Garapan Fishing Base, from 5pm to 10pm each day.

File photo shows one of the Kadun Pika Cook-off entries at the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 4, 2019, at American Memorial Park, Saipan. MVA

Contestants may now register in-person only at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Beach Road in San Jose for the Kadun Pika Cooking Contest on June 18, the Eskabeche Eating Contest on June 19, and the Sukiyaki Eating Contest on June 25. Contests are open to ages 18 and older.

"The Taste of the Marianas is one of the largest annual festivals in the Marianas, highlighting local favorites and international dishes and entertainment," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We invite everyone interested to sign up for our contests this year, and we look forward to celebrating a great festival with all our visitors, including visitors here for the Pacific Mini Games."

The Marianas Jr. Chef Challenge will also be held on June 26.

The Kadun Pika Cooking Contest starts at 5:30pm on June 18. Cash prizes are $500 for first place, $250 for second place, $150 for third place, and $100 for fourth lace. Teams are limited to one or two persons. Participants must provide their own gas stove, pots, ingredients, and other equipment. The MVA will provide one family-size bag of stewing chicken and an 8-foot table. Chicken may be picked up on June 17 at the MVA office before 5pm. All cooking must be done at the site. Entries will be judged based on taste/flavor, tenderness, balance of spiciness, and presentation.

The Eskabeche Cooking Contest starts at 5:30pm on June 19. Cash prizes are $500 for first place, $250 for second place, $150 for third place, and $100 for fourth place. Teams are limited to one or two persons. Participants must provide their own gas stove, pots, ingredients, and other equipment. The MVA will provide one parrot fish and an 8-foot table. Parrot fish must be picked up on June 17 at the MVA office before 5pm. All cooking must be done at the site. Entries will be judged based on taste/flavor, tenderness, use of coconut milk and vegetables, and presentation.

The Sukiyaki Eating Contest will be held at 8pm on June 25 at the festival main stage. Participants will be challenged to be the first to finish 5 lbs. of sukiyaki within 30 minutes to win $500 cash.

The Taste of the Marianas is an annual signature event of the MVA and will feature affordable dishes from local eateries, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales. Entry is free.

For rules, registration forms, or more information, visit the MVA office or contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or 664-3200. ***(MVA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

5.4-magnitude quake on Pagan

At 10:58am on June 8, 2022, a report of a 5.4-magnitude earthquake occurred in Pagan Region, Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, there were no reports of personnel injuries or damages to infrastructure and no Tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Scheduled water service interruptions in Finasisu

There will be a series of scheduled water service interruptions for the Finasisu village. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers will experience intermittent low water pressure to no water during the scheduled dates and times.

June 16-22, 2022: 9am to 5pm

■ Area(s) affected: Gafo Place, Patma Place and Tun Antonio Apa Road.

June 20-24, 2022, from 9am to 5pm

■ Area(s) affected: Pengka Place and Tun Antonio Apa Road.

June 27-July 1, 2022, from 9am to 5pm

■ Area(s) affected: Ubwut Place, Heggao Place, Aschi Place and Tun Antonio Apa Road.

July 5-8, 2022, from 9am to 5pm

■ Area(s) affected: Tun Antonio Apa Road and Husk Lane.

The scheduled water service interruptions are to allow CUC's contractor for the Finasisu Waterline Replacement Project, to perform the water meter relocation and reconnection to the new service lateral connected to the new 8-inch and 4-inch PVC main waterline for the areas of Gafo Place, Patma Place and Tun Antonio Apa Road in Finasisu. Water service to the affected areas will resume to normalcy soon after.

This project is part of the Finasisu Waterline Replacement Project funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to provide a more reliable water system. The transition work is in part of the decommissioning of the old waterline to eliminate risks of contamination and frequent line breaks.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (haps://www.facebook.com/Commonwea I th Uti I iti esCorporation/). ***(PR)***

CWA launches women entrepreneurship trainings

The CNMI Women's Association launched its "Women Entrepreneurs Project" last June 8 to provide entrepreneurial workshops, resources, tools and business networking support to promote and encourage more local women to pursue business ownership.

Twenty women have registered for the first cohort of trainings, which will take place at the CWA Women's Center on Capital Hill. Trainings launched on June 8 and will continue on June 15, 22, 29, and July 6.

Hey topics have been lined up to walk each participant in completing their business plan. Other key components of the trainings also include topics like financing, marketing and growing a small business.

"The first training day on Wednesday…was quite exciting, especially seeing the beautiful faces of the ladies and matching them with the names registered for the WEP. It's finally happening," said Dorina Iginoef, the CWA acting administrator and WEP program assistant.

"The experience was incredibly positive. It was an exciting moment when all the women and the speakers were all engaged. I loved every second. Meeting others with the same goals as mine was amazing," said Valentina Rivera, a business owner and cohort 1 WEP participant.

Some of the 20 women entrepreneurs who are taking part in the CNMI Women's Association's Women Entrepreneurs Project on the first day or the trainings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The second training day is on Wednesday, June 15, at the Women's Center. It will focus on "How to Finance your Business." Key guest speakers are from banking institutions, Marie Coleman from the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, and Jesse Taisague from the Department of Commerce.

The other training days are on June 22, which will focus on "Marketing Your Business," on June 29 focusing on "Growing your Business" and with a wrap up on July 6 with each participant sharing their business plan.

CWA has been working closely with the Northern Marianas College's CNMI Small Business Development Center Network on this and looks forward to collaborating and coordinating with other entities like the CEDA, Department of Commerce, banking institutions and other entities these next weeks ahead and beyond as the Women Entrepreneur Project develops itself long term.

The Women Entrepreneurs Project came about due in large part to a two-year grant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

CWA is a federally recognized tax exempt 501(c)3 non- profit organization that was established in 2011 and is governed by a seven-member board.

This is the WEP's first cohort of many more that CWA looks forward helping sustain and growing long-term, especially with close collaborations and partnerships with key contacts and entities like NMC's SBDCN.

For more information, contact CWA at (670) 233-8978, via email at cnmiwomen@gmail.com or via Facebook @ cnmiwomen. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

P.O. Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 664-1712 | Email: cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp

VISION: *"Vision: "To integrate a seamless workforce development system that meets the needs of employers, job-seekers, workers, and youths in order to supply quality employees for the dynamic economy of the CNMI."*

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, Section 11(a), the CNMI State Workforce Development Board hereby gives notice that it will hold its Program Year (PY) 2021 4th Quarter General Membership meeting on Friday, June 17, 2022 from 12 noon to 3:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan - Chamolinian Room

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of June 17, 2022
IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2022
V. Public Comments
VI. Reports
  a. Executive Committee
  b. Planning, Assessment, Evaluation Committee
  c. Policy & Procedure Committee
  d. Program Committee
  e. Core Partners
VII. New Business
  a. Eligible Training Provider Application
    1. Latte Training Academy (LTA)
  b. Policies
    1. MP2022-001: Timely & Complete Data Entry
    2. MP2022-002: Grievance & Complaint
    3. MP2022-003: Case Note(s)
    4. National Dislocated Worker Grant – COVID-19
  c. Annual WIOA Evaluation
VIII. Announcements
IX. Next Meeting
X. Adjournment

/s/ Velma Ann Palacios
Chairperson

ACCOMMODATIONS
Individuals who require accommodations are requested to contact the Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency at 670.664.1708/1717 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in order to ensure the availability of the requested accommodation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
The public is welcome to comment on any agenda item. Public comments may be made by:
- Email to cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp an hour before the meeting start time. The subject line shall identify the date of the meeting followed by the agenda item being addressed.
- Oral testimonies in-person at the meeting.

Timely submission of public comments will be read aloud during the public comment segment of the agenda and made available to the public in compliance with Public Law 8-41.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V.Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING
COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
AIRPORT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING FACILITY, RAPID REFILL PROJECT
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-03-X-21-A1

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Facility, Rapid Refill Project in Dandan, Saipan, near the Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is proposing to replace the existing water tanks, high-capacity water pumps, electronic controls, yard piping, and overhead ARFF vehicle refill piping within the existing ARFF facility in Dandan, Saipan.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

To maintain the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315). Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the CPA Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Facility, Rapid Refill Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman | JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Vice Chairman | HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member | DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER, Acting Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

No.: 2022-01

It is the policy of the Tinan Casino Gaming Control Commission that the personnel system shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution, and the Federal Civil Rights Laws regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

Position Title: Executive Director
Opening Date: 06/13/2022 **Closing Date:** 06/27/2022
Salary: $55,000.00 - $65,000.00 per annum **Pay Level:** Ungraded
Location: Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, P.O. Box 520143 Tinian, MP 96952 USA

Duties: Serves as Chief Administrative Officer for the staff of the Gaming Commission. Responsible for maintaining efficient operations, for the Gaming Commission. Ensures that the Gaming Commission fulfill its mandate, pursuant to the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989. Responsible for recruiting staff members for the TCGCC. Develops administrative procedures, and applicable internal controls. Initiates investigations of applicants for casino licenses, and other applicable licenses. Makes recommendations to the members of the Commission based on the findings of due diligence reports. Prepares annual performance report for the Gaming Commission. Reviews and finalizes the financial reports of the Gaming Commission's activities. Performs other duties as specified in the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989, and pursuant to the advice of the Commission.

Qualifications: A combination equivalent to a degree from an accredited college or university, in public administration, business administration or related fields, and at least five (5) years of substantial experience in administrative office management and staff supervision, either the public or with the private sector. Experience in personnel management, fiscal management, procurement and supply, contract negotiation, and other managerial skills, will also be taken into consideration. Applicant must pass the required pre-employment drug testing and other applicable standards, pursuant to the TCGCC Personnel Rules and Regulations.

Special Conditions of Employment: Employment will be undertaken pursuant to TCGCC Personnel Regulations, including but not limited to, Sub-Section 170-30.5-235 which states that "There are special conditions and standards of employment which are considered implicit to successful performance in certain positions". These include, the availability to perform work during non-standard working hours, the requirement to officially travel, as deemed necessary by the TCGCC, and other related duties.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS MAY OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT, AT THE TCGCC'S MAIN OFFICE IN TINIAN. THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT, AND ALL REVELANT DOCUMENTS WHICH INCLUDES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO A RESUME, SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND/OR OTHER RELEVANT EDUCATION TRANSCRIPTS, AND A POLICE CLEARANCE, MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PERSONNEL SPECIALIST AT THE TCGCC'S MAIN OFFICE DURING THE SPECIFIED OPENING AND CLOSING DATE OF THE POSITION.

NOTE: TCGCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXTEND OR CANCEL THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WITH OR WITHOUT CAUSE.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Keep at it, senators. Modest action on gun safety is better than nothing at all

It was hard to discern what was most upsetting during this week's congressional hearing on the national epidemic of gun violence.

Was it the pediatrician from Uvalde, Texas, describing the bodies of decapitated children in his emergency room on May 24, so mutilated that they could only be identified by their "blood-splattered cartoon clothes"?

Was it the mother who talked about the last time she saw her daughter alive, watching her receive an award for good grades during fourth grade at Robb Elementary School, promising to take her out for ice cream later and then leaving for a day of work? It was a decision that she said "will haunt me for the rest of my life."

Or was it the 11-year-old girl, who said she was so afraid of being killed by the gunman who'd already massacred her teacher and her classmates that she decided to play dead on the floor of her classroom by covering herself with blood from her friend's body?

After this heart-wrenching testimony, the Democratic-controlled House took logical action and passed a package of reasonable gun safety measures. The bills would increase the age to buy semiautomatic weapons from 18 to 21, ban high-capacity magazines, create new requirements for gun owners to safely store their firearms and expand "red flag" laws that allow families and police to ask courts to order the removal of firearms from people at extreme risk of harming themselves or others.

But compounding the tragedy of recent mass shootings in Uvalde; Buffalo, New York; and Tulsa , Oklahoma; (as well as dozens more that don't generate as many headlines—carnage in recent days in Portsmouth, Virginia.; Baltimore; Mesa, Arizona; Saginaw, Michigan; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Philadelphia has left 31 people injured and 15 dead, including a pregnant woman whose 25-week-old fetus was pulled from her body) was the all-but-certain likelihood that the House legislation will stall in the Senate.

Even though gunshots are now the leading cause of death for American children—taking more young lives than car crashes—Republicans' resistance to limits on firearms will likely doom the bills in the 50-50 Senate, where the filibuster rule requires support from 10 GOP senators to advance debate.

The good news, if you can call it that in the nation that has the highest rate of firearm deaths among the world's most developed countries, is that a bipartisan group of senators is trying to craft a gun safety bill that has a chance of passing the Senate and being signed into law. It would be much narrower than the House legislation, and could include incentives encouraging states to create red-flag laws, an expansion of federal background checks to incorporate juvenile records and funding to improve school security

See KEEP on Next Page

YOU'RE TOO YOUNG FOR CIGARETTES BUT WOULD YOU LIKE AN M4 CARBINE ASSAULT RIFLE
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grimmy.com

Gen Z, millennials and Gen X all basically agree on work from home

By CHRIS HUGHES
Bloomberg Opinion

Chris Hughes is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering deals. Previously, he worked for* Reuters Breakingviews, *the* Financial Times *and the* Independent *newspaper.*

During the early days of the pandemic, the narrative was that remote-working was a grind for younger workers stuck in cramped apartments and bliss for their seniors living it up in airy home offices. The juniors were missing out on in-person learning, while their superiors were more focused on how to spend the savings from fewer train tickets.

In fact, attitudes to remote working are far less polarized.

The majority of traditional office workers appears to value the chance to work from home (WFH) at least one day a week. There is some variation according to age, but it's not large or consistent enough to be significant.

A recent study by consultants McKinsey & Co. found that workers ages 18 to 34 were 59% more likely to leave than 55- to 64-year-olds if their employer didn't offer a hybrid work arrangement.

The larger Survey of Working Arrangements and Attitudes (a collaboration between Chicago, ITAM, MIT and Stanford universities) presents more nuanced findings. Workers in their 20s were most likely to start looking for a new job if their employer denied them hybrid working. But over-50s were most likely to quit there and then. (Of course, younger workers may have itchier feet generally, and older workers may have an eye on retirement.)

A lot depends on how you ask the question. Invite workers to think of the option of work from home for two or three days in terms of a pay rise, and those in their 30s will give it the highest value. Ask what pay rise would be needed to work in their employer's premises five days a week and it's the over-50s who want the biggest bump.

The important point is that support for a hybrid arrangement is high across the board. The appeal of reduced commuting time—often the most cited benefit of remote working—clearly goes beyond older workers. Younger workers may feel the hit of transport costs on their disposable income more acutely; the more central parts of public-transport networks are often the most crowded. Meanwhile, millennials have had a couple years to get used to co-working and negotiating communal space with housemates.

What does all this mean for employers? The tightness of the labor market and the need to attract up-and-coming talent will continue to force most large firms to offer the option of at least some remote working. The snag is that the long-term impact of this shift remains unknown.

Part of that early pandemic meme—the loss of on-the-job learning and in-person interaction—should remain a concern. Lower office occupancy means less knowledge transfer between generations and weaker internal relationships. These can be seen as sources of competitive advantage as much as the ability to attract talent. When things go wrong at companies, the explanation often comes down to culture.

Even if activity can be neatly divided into solo tasks best done remotely and collaborative tasks best done in the office, something inevitably gets lost in the divorce—learning by imitation and the ability to tap on a colleague's metaphorical open door, for example. These benefits don't disappear with hybrid working, but they risk being diminished.

So expect employers to offer the hybrid option while encouraging use of the office. One thing that might help on this front is proposing more flexible working hours to dodge peak travel times and deal with non-work commitments. The second-biggest reason that WFH is attractive is the ability to manage domestic and social responsibilities, according to a survey of London workers by King's College London. Commuting costs may become a more explicit part of salary negotiations.

Companies should also respond to what people consider the downsides of office work—often, the prevalence of distractions. For example, Alphabet Inc.'s Google reportedly plans for future offices to give people more room. This reinforces the trend towards corporate tenants seeking higher-quality space in prime locations. Vacancy rates for top-grade offices were just 4% in central London against 8% overall at the end of 2021, according to property consultants Cushman & Wakefield. Developer British Land Co. recently pre-let a building in London's financial district four years ahead of its scheduled completion.

But upgrading the offices of the world's major cities for the post-pandemic era won't happen overnight. Unless attitudes radically change, or the balance of power between employers and employees shifts, the hybrid experiment is going to have plenty of time to show results.

As Congress debates gun measures, NRA money distorts the arguments

By REKHA BASU
Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. *Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.*

On March 15, 22-year-old Eden Montang of Ames, Iowa, made an Instagram post about red flags, a topic that, uncannily, is now being debated in Congress. "Stop treating red flags as challenges instead of warning signs," she wrote, framing it as "Unsolicited relationship advice."

Most likely, although she didn't name Johnathan Whitlatch, it was advice gleaned from her own relationship with the man who authorities say killed her June 2, less than three months later.

Montang, a graduate of Boone High School and a senior in Iowa State University's College of Human Sciences who worked with the Iowa National Guard, was shot to death outside Cornerstone Church in Ames. She and her 21-year-old friend Vivian Flores were going there for a service. Authorities named Whitlatch, who had been abusive toward her and with whom she had broken up, for both deaths as well as his own.

Every month, an average of 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner in America. Every day, 111 people are killed with guns.

Had there actually been a red flag law in place, a minimal step the federal government could take to prevent such future carnage, maybe all three lives could have been saved. But one of Montang's senators, Iowa Republican Joni Ernst, won't support one. She has called red flag laws unfair for targeting people over a feeling.

Two things are worth noting about that. One, Ernst has never expressed as much concern over Black motorists being too frequently stopped and pulled over by police over a mere feeling (also known as racial profiling). And two, the National Rifle Association has spent $3.68 million on her behalf since her first run for federal office in 2014, putting her in the top five among beneficiaries in office.

On Wednesday, the Democratic-majority U.S. House passed the Protecting Our Kids Act, which would, among other things, raise the minimum age to purchase an assault rifle to 21, bar the sale of large-capacity magazines and institute new rules on appropriate gun storage at home and on guns without a serial number.

But the Senate isn't expected to follow suit because Democrats hold only 50 seats and it would take 60 votes to pass. Democrats overwhelmingly (91%) want more restrictive gun laws, but only 24% of Republicans do, according to a Gallup poll.

And the Republicans win on this every time. With such NRA vote-buying abilities, don't hold your breath for any meaningful gun reforms to pass.

So instead, senators are negotiating over background checks on gun-buyers and red flag laws. Those would allow people who suspect a particular weapon-owner is a threat to themselves or the public to file a court petition to seize their weapons for a set amount of time.

The Ames shootings, coming on the heels of the mass shootings of schoolchildren in Uvalde, Texas, and grocery shoppers in Buffalo, New York, have a chorus of Americans crying "Enough is Enough!" Uvalde and Buffalo were among at least 232 shootings just this year in which four or more people were killed or injured, according to The Gun Violence Archive.

But such cries for tougher gun measures after each horrific new round have gone unanswered. And that's even though 89% of people support background checks for all gun purchases, including private and gun show sales; 86% back "red flag" laws; 60% want to ban high-capacity magazines; 56% would ban assault weapons sales and 52% support mandatory assault weapon buyback programs.

On Wednesday, all but five House Republicans voted against the Protecting Our Kids Act. There's a financial incentive. Just research NRA contributions and look up the names of the Republican politicians opposing such legislation.

Listening to some of the arguments against the bill, you could almost see the favor being repaid.

Rep. Andrew Clyde of Georgia, who has taken over $12,376 from the NRA, called the Uvalde shootings "an evil act" but warned that "no one should weaponize or politicize the abhorrent acts" or allow emotions to drive our actions because "constitutional rights are the ones that transcend evil deeds."

Rep. Jody Hice of Georgia, who has taken $12,964 in NRA money, said there are moral absolutes, which include respecting one another, respecting life and embracing religious beliefs. He said the acts of violence are a reflection of a moral and spiritual crisis in this country.

Rep. Pat Fallon of Texas ($11,323) called the Uvalde shooter "a troubled, evil coward" and said it's natural to want to assign blame. But, he said, some people were wrongly blaming guns, the Constitution or "a political party."

He also talked about a breakdown in the family and faith and a problem with antisocial media and "these dang cellphones." Fallon said mass shootings are not committed by well-adjusted, socially established people."

Rep. Fred Keller of Pennsylvania ($12,893) noted a "devastating" shooting in Pennsylvania this month and said, "We all should offer prayers to the families that have been affected across commonwealth and nation." And he contended that crime is rising in cities with the most restrictive firearm laws.

Rep. James Comer of Kentucky ($21,791) declared that all criminals should be in jail.

There was also talk about locking school doors and arming teachers.

In his speech a week before, President Joe Biden called for an assault-weapons ban, expanded background checks and red flag laws. But he pointed out that the majority of Senate Republicans don't want any of these proposals even to be debated, much less voted on.

After the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school shooting in Parkland, Florida, in 2018, Students Demand Action became active. "Sometimes it takes a huge tragedy like the Parkland shooting to open people's eyes, wake them up and motivate them," said a gun-violence survivor, 17-year-old Julia Spoor, then. "But I think we have that right now."

She was quoted in Michelle Roehm McCann's 2019 book "Enough Is Enough."

But since 2018, there have been 119 school shootings in the U.S. Guns are now the single largest cause of death for teenagers and young adults.

It's as if America's being held hostage by a foreign power that's shooting 117,345 of our people every year and killing 111 every day with guns. But the majority of citizens and the president can't do anything to stop it as long as there are enough holdouts in Congress.

In 2016 the NRA spent a record—more than $419 million—to, among other things, get Donald Trump and Republicans elected to the U.S. House and Senate. The money was also spent on legislative programs and public affairs, according to an audit obtained and shared by the Center for Responsive Politics.

Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley has benefited from over $224,937 of NRA spending and has a current campaign ad boasting of having its endorsement, along with Donald Trump's and more. That prompted the nonprofit group Progress Iowa to call on Grassley on Monday to take it down. But I say let him leave it up. Iowans and the nation should see the senator's true priorities.

Here's one simple thing you can do as a voter. Before you vote in November, check out the candidates' contributions from the NRA. The website opensecrets.org has good tallies. See if those correlate with their positions on gun safety. If they want to point in any direction but toward sensible gun reform measures in response to these multiplying tragedies, ask yourself why. And then, for heaven's sake, for children's sake—for the sake of your own conscience—vote for someone else.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

OAG asked for legal assistance for CNMI service members, veterans

Re: Legal assistance to eligible CNMI service members or veterans, individually or as a class, seeking financial compensation for hearing loss and tinnitus caused by defective "dual-sided black and yellow combat arms earplugs," a 3M product, provided by the U.S. military from 2003 to 2015.

As the chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, I, along with committee members Reps. Richard Lizama, Celina Babauta, Christina Sablan, Leila Staffler, Edwin Propst and Roy Ada, request any legal assistance the Office of the Attorney General can provide to any and all eligible service members or veterans who are legal residents of the CNMI, in line with various national lawsuits against 3M.

This wave of lawsuits against 3M started in April 2022 with seven rounds of "Bellwether Trials" involving nine plaintiffs. Three of these plaintiffs lost. The other six plaintiffs won and were awarded damages totaling $29.4 million, an average of $4.9 million each.

On May 20, 2022, a $77.5-million judgement was awarded in *Beal v. 3M* after a two-week jury trial in Pensacola, Florida. Also, on May 31, 2022, a $55-million judgment previously awarded in *Wayman vs. 3M* was reduced to $21.7 million due to limits on punitive damages under Colorado law.

As of June 2022, a case management order provided for hundreds of additional lawsuits to go forward, on top of other cases currently set for jury trial and those cases pending appeal by 3M.

Filing claims against 3M will not affect any service-related disability benefits that our veterans currently receive or are eligible for. As of this request, there are nearly 300,000 service members and veterans suing 3M. To my knowledge, none are CNMI residents.

As a veteran myself and chairperson of the Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee of the 22nd CNMI House of Representatives, I pray along with my colleagues for your office's diligent attention to this request as well as your response. My office can be contacted at 670-664-8903 or 670-287-5351.

Rep. Vicente C. Camacho
Chairman, Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee

KEEP

From Page 8

and support mental health programs.

This is hardly the kind of bold, transformative policy that we would like to see. The nation should expand background checks and reinstate the assault weapons ban, policies that have been shown to save lives and are supported by more than 60% of Americans, according to a Pew survey last year.

But doing something is better than nothing. And expanding red-flag laws to more states could make a positive difference. California is among 19 states that have laws allowing family members and law enforcement officers to seek a court order to temporarily remove firearms from people at significant risk of harming themselves or others.

New research examining the first three years of the California law allowing these "gun violence restraining orders" found that they were successful in removing firearms in 58 instances in which someone threatened a mass shooting, including six cases targeting schools. They were also effective in preventing possible self-harm, which was threatened in about 40% of the cases examined during the 3-year period. No suicides occurred among people who threatened self-harm and then had their guns removed by court order, according to the study from the Violence Prevention Research Program at UC Davis.

California can make this policy even more effective by educating the public that it's possible to ask courts to remove someone's guns and by training more judges, district attorneys and law enforcement officers in how the process works. It was good to see last week that Gov. Gavin Newsom announced $11 million to support such outreach.

Senators in Washington, meanwhile, must push ahead and reach a bipartisan agreement to reduce the number of Americans who are killed, injured and traumatized by gun violence. It's the very least they can do for the nation's children.

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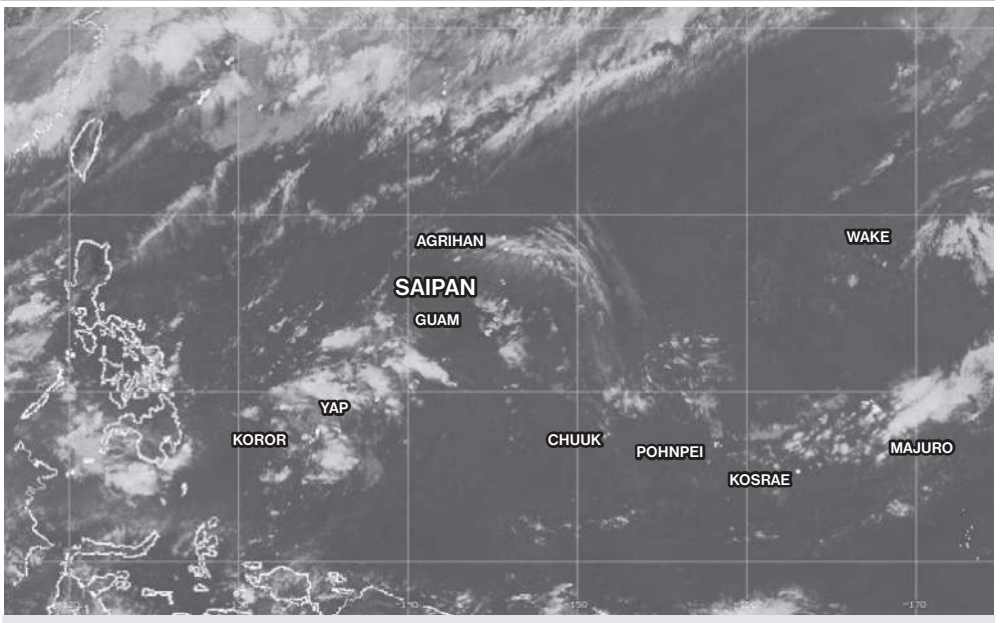
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy, with Isolated showers.	Mostly sunny, with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy, with a chance of showers.	Partly sunny, with a chance of showers.
89° 78°	90° 78°	90° 78°	90° 78°	90° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:12 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler radar shows scattered showers southeast of Guam, but only isolated showers within the Marianas Coastal Waters today. Dry season maintains a grip on the islands, although it is getting more tenuous as the Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough is beginning to make its presence known. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to feet composed of east trade-wind swell, southeast wind waves, and a north swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	31 / 26 °F
Palau	PM Thunderstorms	29 / 24 °F
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26°F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	30 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:46 AM	18:47 PM
Wednesdasy	05:46 AM	18:48 PM
Thursday	05:46 AM	18:48 PM
Friday	05:47 AM	18:48 PM
Saturday	09:27 AM	18:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	05:04 PM	18:39PM
Wednesday	-	06:06 PM	19:47 PM
Thursday	-	07:13 PM	20:52 PM
Friday	-	08:21 PM	21:51 PM
Saturday	-	08:21 PM	22:43 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy/Wind	16 / 13 °F
Beijing	PM Thunderstorms	27 / 17 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	29 / 23 °F
London	Mostly Sunny	24 / 12 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	26 / 16 °F
Manila	PM Thunderstorms	34 / 27 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	13 / 10 °F
Miami	AM Showers	30 / 26 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	28 / 20 °F
Osaka	Rain	21/ 18 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	27 / 15 °F
Busan	Rain/Wind	21 / 18 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	32 / 20 °F
Salem	PM Thunderstorms	33 / 23 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	22 / 12°F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	26 / 15 °F
Tokyo	PM Showers	20 / 16 °F
Washington, DC	AM Thunderstorms	28 / 20 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
01:01 AM	Low Tide	1.42
06:07 AM	High Tide	2.21
1:33 PM	Low Tide	-0.43
8:48 PM	High Tide	2.19

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

La Mesa Kusina opens in CK

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan was an important port-stop in the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade so it just made sense that a Filipino-Mexican restaurant finally opened on the island. It's against this backdrop that Clint Albert of Eats Easy and John Saludez launched La Mesa Kusina last May 28.

New Business

Albert said La Mesa Kusina is a Filipino-Mexican fusion restaurant that draws inspiration more on the Filipino side but with Mexican-style cooking.

"It's casual dining but with fast food branding. It's called La Mesa because it means 'table' in Spanish, Filipino, and even Chamorro. The same with Kusina, which is obviously kitchen with a 'C' in Spanish and Chamorro and 'K' in Filipino. So, it's basically a kitchen-to-table food," he said.

And they're not shy about explaining the heavy Filipino influence in their cooking even to a recent Mexican tourist.

"A legit Mexican lady came in and we told her 'we're more Filipino-inspired than Mexican so don't get us wrong,' but we were kind of scared. …But she liked the idea of changing it a little bit," he said.

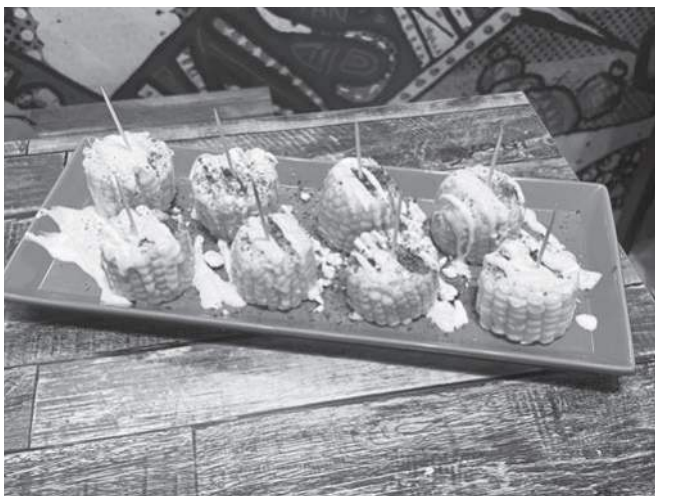
Saludez, a known food vlogger, said that partnering with Eats Easy was a no-brainer.

"They [Albert and Marco Santiago] have been in the food industry here for two to three years already. At the start…Clint [and I] were thinking what kind of restaurant should we open and Clint asked me why not Filipino and he also asked why not Mexican and I said, 'Por qué no los dos' (Why not both)?"

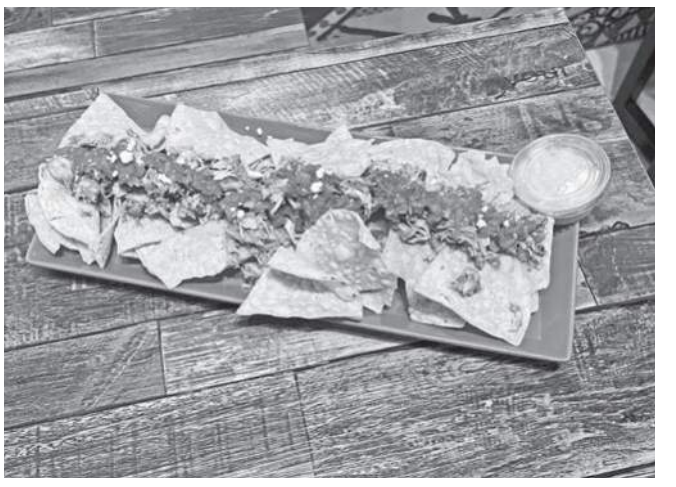
Having grown up in Sacramento, California, both Filipino and Mexican cuisine were always a big thing so it wasn't hard to convince him to open a Filipino-Mexican restaurant.

"We've been getting great reception from the Saipan community. We really feel the love, especially from our neighbors from Mount Carmel to offices and establishments around Chalan Kanoa," said Saludez.

The Adobong Barbacoa and Chicken Soft Tacos. MARK RABAGO



La Mesa Kusina's Elotes. MARK RABAGO



Hefe Dave's Chicken Nachos. MARK RABAGO

Albert couldn't agree more, adding that they were fortunate to have such a prime spot for La Mesa Kusina right in the middle of Chalan Kanoa.

"It was just a nice location and I told John, 'Let's do something here,' when this location near Mt. Carmel Cathedral opened up. The market here is residential, with people from the south and students from all over the schools around."

So far, La Mesa Kusina's bestsellers are the ones recommended in the menu by its mascot, Hefe Dave. These are Fajita Tapa, Manong's Cheesy Corn, Elotes, and churros for dessert.

Albert said La Mesa Kusina is still evolving and would love to get customers' feedback all the time. They're also very active on social media and thanked everyone who have so far re-shared their posts.

"Everyone should try La Mesa Kusina. Let us know how it is. Give us a thumbs up or thumbs down. We are open to any suggestion and comments as well. We're happy to have everyone here and everyone's welcome," Albert said.

La Mesa Kusina is located beside CK Internet & Computer Shop, a stone's throw away from the Archdiocese of Chalan Kanoa. It is open Monday-Saturday, from 11am to 10pm with last call at 9:30pm and can comfortably seat 28 patrons. For more information or for reservations, call (670) 234-6372.

'We' or 'Me' time at Cosmo Lounge

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Whether you want to study, work, meet, play, or celebrate with family or friends, or you just want some alone time, Cosmo Lounge above Winchell's Donuts on Beach Road in Susupe is the convenient solution to do any of those.

Located near villages, offices and schools, Cosmo Lounge offers beautiful and comfortable spaces to anyone who would like an environment that will help them celebrate an occasion, a spot to escape to, or reach study and work goals for the day.

Cosmo Lounge president Kyung Yi Lee and his wife, Kyung Soo Lee, established the business in July last year. He explained that this concept is very popular in Korea. It's easy to see why. Most people are accustomed to having celebrations at home. That involves a lot of housework, preparation, cooking, and then after the celebration, the cleaning part. Too much of a hassle, right? Some families just opted to rent space in hotels but this is quite expensive. The solution? Venues like Cosmo Lounge, where people can just come, bring their own food, and go home relaxed after.

Kyung Yi Lee explained that Cosmo Lounge is an alternative space not only for celebrations, but also for students and professionals. It is also a place for tourists to spend time after checking out of their hotel and waiting for their flight.

"We also accommodate the safekeeping of tourists' luggage so they can go around and enjoy Saipan while they wait for their flight," added Kyung Soo Lee.

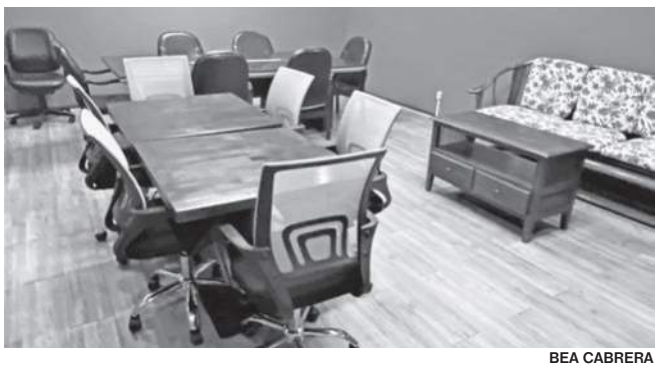
Cosmo Lounge can accommodate 60 people at one time They have five private rooms and one common area. Every room has a distinct and modern décor that will boost productivity. The rooms can also be re arranged adapt to the occasion or needs of the customers. The entire place is well-lit, air-conditioned, and has strong WiFi.

BEA CABRERA

Cosmo Lounge can accommodate 60 people. This is the common area where solo or small groups of customers can grab a

BEA CABRERA

Cosmo Lounge has private rooms that can accommodate special celebrations.



BEA CABRERA

Cosmo Lounge has accommodated workshops and meetings by the American Red Cross, the Rotary Club of Saipan, and more.

BEA CABRERA

Husband and wife Kyung Yi Lee and Kyung Soo Lee own Cosmo Lounge and have been managing different businesses for 30 years, helping the economy of Saipan to thrive.

If you forgot to bring your coffee and snack, don't worry. They have a snack bar that offers coffee, soda, juice, pastries and even light meals.

"For only $5, a customer can enjoy the place for two hours with free drinks. If they go beyond that, we charge an additional $3. For group reservations, we offer a discounted price," Kyung Soo Lee said.

Cosmo Lounge has accommodated workshops, meetings, potlucks, and celebrations. With the upcoming Pacific Mini Games 2022, it is looking forward to accommodating teams and athletes to enjoy their amenities and hospitality.

For food storage, they have a freezer, an area to organize food, garbage bins to manage trash, and clean restrooms.

Cosmo Lounge is open Monday to Saturday, from 10am to 7pm. For more information, call (670) 235-4596 or look them up on Facebook or Instagram @CosmoLounge.

Nation

Senate negotiators announce a deal on guns, breaking logjam

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate bargainers on Sunday announced the framework of a bipartisan response to last month's mass shootings, a noteworthy but limited breakthrough offering modest gun curbs and stepped-up efforts to improve school safety and mental health programs.

The proposal falls far short of tougher steps long sought by President Joe Biden and many Democrats. Even so, the accord was embraced by Biden and enactment would signal a significant turnabout after years of gun massacres that have yielded little but stalemate in Congress.

Biden said in a statement that the framework "does not do everything that I think is needed, but it reflects important steps in the right direction, and would be the most significant gun safety legislation to pass Congress in decades."

Given the bipartisan support, "there are no excuses for delay, and no reason why it should not quickly move through the Senate and the House," he said.

Leaders hope to push any agreement into law rapidly—they hope this month—before the political momentum fades that has been stirred by the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas. Participants cautioned that final details and legislative language remain to be completed, meaning fresh disputes and delays might emerge.

In a consequential development, 20 senators, including 10 Republicans, released a statement calling for passage. That is potentially crucial because the biggest obstacle to enacting the measure is probably in the 50-50 Senate, where at least 10 GOP votes will be needed to attain the usual 60-vote threshold for approval.

"Families are scared, and it is our duty to come together and get something done that will help restore their sense of safety and security in their communities," the lawmakers said. The group, led by Sens. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., John Cornyn, R-Texas, Thom Tillis, R-N.C., and Krysten Sinema, D-Ariz., produced the agreement after two weeks of closed-door talks.

The compromise would make the juvenile records of gun buyers under age 21 available when they undergo background checks. The suspects who killed 10 Black people at a grocery store in Buffalo and 19 students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde were both 18, and many perpetrators of recent years' mass shootings have been young.

The agreement would offer money to states to enact and put in place "red flag" laws that make it easier to temporarily take guns from people considered potentially violent, plus funds to bolster school safety and mental health programs.

Some people who informally sell guns for profit would be required to obtain federal dealers' licenses, which means they would have to conduct background checks of buyers. Convicted domestic abusers who do not live with a former partner, such as estranged exboyfriends, would be barred from buying firearms, and it would be a crime for a person to legally purchase a weapon for someone who would not qualify for ownership.

Congressional aides said billions of dollars would be spent expanding the number of community mental health centers and suicide prevention programs. But they said some spending decisions are unresolved, as are final wording on juvenile records and other gun provisions that might prove contentious.

Yet underscoring election-year pressures from Buffalo and Uvalde, the parties' shared desire to demonstrate a response to those shootings suggested momentum toward enactment was strong.

1/6 panel to hear Trump campaign manager, probe election lie

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House committee investigating the Jan. 6 riot is delving deeper into what it calls "the big lie," Donald Trump's false claims of voter fraud that fueled his relentless effort to overturn the 2020 election and led a mob of his supporters to lay siege to the U.S. Capitol.

The 1/6 panel resumes its hearings Monday with live witnesses, including Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, as committee members say they have uncovered enough evidence for the Justice Department to consider an unprecedented criminal indictment against the former president. Stepien was subpoenaed for his public testimony.

Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., and vice chair Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., are set to lead the morning hearing after last week's blockbuster session drew nearly 20 million Americans to see its prime-time findings.

For the past year, the committee has been investigating the most violent attack on the Capitol since the War of 1812 to ensure such an assault never happens again. Its findings come as Trump is considering another run for the White House, and some warn that his effort to over turn Joe Biden's election victory posed a grave threat to democracy.

AP

From left to right, Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., Vice Chair Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., and Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va., are seated as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds its first public hearing to reveal the findings of a year-long investigation, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, June 9, 2022.

Stepien, a longtime Trump ally, oversaw the "conversion" of Trump's presidential campaign to a "Stop the Steal" effort, according to a subpoena issued by the committee last fall. He is likely to face questions about what those in Trump's inner circle were telling the president about the election results. Stepien is now a top campaign adviser to the Trump-endorsed House candidate, Harriet Hageman, who is challenging Cheney in the Wyoming Republican primary election.

In addition to Stepien, the committee is also set to hear testimony from Chris Stirewalt, a former Fox News political editor closely involved in election night coverage who stood by the decision to declare Arizona as being won by Biden. He wrote about his experiences later in an op-ed and might be asked about Trump's actions as Fox New declared states Biden won.

A second group of witnesses testifying Monday will be made up of election officials, investigators and experts who are likely to discuss Trump's responses to the election, including dozens of failed court challenges, and how his actions diverged from U.S. norms.

Among them is the former U.S. attorney in Atlanta, BJay Pak, who abruptly resigned after Trump pressured Georgia state officials to overturn his presidential defeat. Trump wanted to fire Pak as disloyal, but Pak stepped down after Trump's call urging Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find" enough votes to overturn Biden's win in the state became public.

The panel will also hear from former Philadelphia City Commissioner Al Schmidt, the only Republican on the

US sees heightened extremist threat heading into midterms

By BEN FOX
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—A looming Supreme Court decision on abortion, an increase of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border and the midterm elections are potential triggers for extremist violence over the next six months, the Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday.

The U.S. was in a "heightened threat environment" already, and these factors may worsen the situation, DHS said in the latest National Terrorism Advisory System bulletin.

"In the coming months, we expect the threat environment to become more dynamic as several high-profile events could be exploited to justify acts of violence against a range of possible targets," DHS said.

It's the latest attempt by Homeland Security to draw attention to the threat posed by domestic violent extremism, a shift from alerts about international terrorism that were a hallmark of the agency following its creation after the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Indeed, the threats from overseas rate only passing mentions in this bulletin. It notes that al-Qaida supporters celebrated the January standoff at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas. And it mentions that the Islamic State group called on supporters to carry out attacks in the United States to avenge the killings of the group's leader and spokesman.

DHS also warns that China, Russia, Iran and other nations seek to foment divisions within the U.S. to weaken the country and its standing in the world. In part, they do this by amplifying conspiracy theories and false reports that proliferate in American society.

Domestic violent extremists, however, present the most pressing and potentially violent threat, the agency said, citing, for example, the racist attack in which a white gunman killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo, New York, supermarket in May.

The bulletin, which is scheduled to expire Nov. 30, said calls for violence by domestic extremists directed at democratic institutions, candidates and election workers will likely increase through the fall. It said that people in online forums have praised the mass shooting at the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, and encouraged copycat attacks.

Flagstaff wildfire forces evacuations, steadily grows

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Evacuations are in effect in parts of northern Arizona as a wildfire about 6 miles (9 kilometers) north of Flagstaff steadily grew Sunday, authorities said.

Coconino National Forest officials said the Pipeline Fire was reported at 10:15 a.m. by a fire lookout and had burned approximately 4,000-5,000 acres by late Sunday, pushing about 15 miles (24 kilometers).

In connection with the fire, Forest Service law enforcement said they have arrested and charged a 57-year-old man with natural resource violations. The cause of the wildfire wasn't immediately known.

Coconino County Sheriff's officials said the Arizona Snowbowl ski resort and people living in the area of the west Schultz Pass Road must evacuate. People living in Doney Park and the area near Mt. Elden should be prepared.

Euelda King and her family evacuated their home for the second time this year because of wildfires. She hadn't settled back in from a springtime blaze before leaving again Sunday, this time able to grab photographs and clothing she didn't get earlier.

"Here we go again," she said.

The family of 11 is planning to stay at the Navajo Nation casino, which is offering assistance to tribal members who evacuated.

The family was waiting in a parking lot ahead of road closure signs, watching smoke billow through the air and aircraft flying overhead.

"The winds are high, and I think they're going to have a little bit of a battle with it," King said.

Wind gusts were sweeping the smoke through Schultz Pass toward Doney Park and authorities said recreationists were being told to leave immediately, especially those in the Schultz Pass area.

The American Red Cross Arizona opened a shelter at Sinagua Middle School for residents who evacuated.

"With this thing going as fast as it is, it could get much closer, of course hoping it doesn't," King said.

Authorities said 13 engines, nine crews, six prevention patrol units, three bulldozers and one water tender were involved in the fighting the fire. An Incident Management Team is scheduled to arrive Monday.

The Arizona Department of Transportation has closed U.S. Route 89. The department said in a Twitter post that there is no estimated time to reopen the road.

Asia

Seoul: North Korea fired suppected artillery shells

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea test-fired what appeared to be artillery shells toward the sea on Sunday, South Korea's military said, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for greater defense capability to cope with outside threats.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected several flight trajectories believed to be North Korean artillery on Sunday morning. It said in the statement that South Korea maintains a firm military readiness in close coordination with the United States amid boosted surveillance on North Korea.

During a national security council meeting convened to discuss the launches, South Korean officials expressed concern that North Korea is upgrading weapons systems that pose a direct threat to South Korea and reaffirmed they would sternly deal with such North Korean efforts, according to South Korea's presidential office.

Jong Un

The North's artillery tests draw less outside attention than its missile launches. But its forward-deployed long-range artillery guns are a serious security threat to South Korea's populous metropolitan region, which is only 40-50 kilometers (25-30 miles) from the border with North Korea.

The suspected artillery launches were the latest in a spate of weapons tests by North Korea this year in what foreign experts call an attempt to pressure its rivals Washington and Seoul to relax international sanctions against Pyongyang and make other concessions.

South Korean and U.S. officials recently said North Korea had almost completed preparations for its first nuclear test in about five years. In March, North Korea test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the mainland U.S. in breach of a 2018 moratorium on big missile tests.

In a speech at a ruling party meeting last week, Kim underscored the need to strengthen his country's military capability, saying the current security environment is "very serious."

9 arrested after assault on women in north China

HONG KONG (AP)—Chinese authorities arrested nine people on suspicion of violently assaulting several women at a restaurant after surveillance footage of the attack sparked widespread outrage.

Footage from a barbecue restaurant in Tangshan in northern Hebei province, time stamped 2:40 a.m. Friday, showed one of the men approaching a table where a party of four women were seated and placing his hand on a woman's back.

She rebuffed him several times before he flew into a rage and slapped her, prompting her to fight back. A brawl ensued, with a group of men entering the restaurant and brutally attacking the woman and her dining partners, including shoving them to the ground, kicking them and even throwing a chair at them.

Footage taken from outside the restaurant also showed the attackers dragging the woman who had rebuffed the man's advances out of the establishment and beating her viciously while most passersby and patrons looked on.

Photographs of her lying on a stretcher, with a swollen and bloodied face, as well as footage of the attack, went viral online.

The assault and the public outcry renewed a conversation about misogyny and mistreatment of women in China. Earlier this year, a viral video of a woman being chained to a wall in a hut drew public backlash after authorities initially denied that she was a victim of human trafficking. She was later found to have been sold as a bride.

All nine suspects were arrested Saturday, according to a statement by authorities issued on microblogging platform Weibo.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US official meets Marcos in Philippines in diplomatic push

BANGKOK (AP)—A top State Department official met Thursday with Philippine President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in Manila, part of an ongoing diplomatic outreach in the Asia-Pacific region by Washington to try and blunt growing Chinese influence. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman tweeted after meeting Marcos that the two discussed a range of issues, including the Philippines-U.S. alliance, deepening economic ties, advancing human rights and "preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific." Marcos, the son of longtime Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr. who was ousted in a popular uprising in 1986, was elected in a landslide last month, alarming human rights activists and pro-democracy groups. The U.S. appears prepared to work with him, with President Joe Biden being one of the first world leaders to call Marcos and congratulate him on his electoral victory.

Pakistan military: Soldier killed in shootout with militants

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani soldier was killed during an exchange of fire with militants in the tribal district of North Waziristan near the Afghan border, the military said Sunday. The shootout took place in the Datta Khel area and security forces quickly started a search-and-clearance operation to locate militants who fled, the military said in a statement. No militant group immediately claimed responsibility. The militant Pakistani Taliban recently extended a cease-fire agreement and are holding talks with Pakistani authorities. North Waziristan and other tribal districts served as a safe haven for local and foreign militants until 2014, when the military carried out a massive operation to clear the area of militants. But they still attack security forces sporadically.

India, China growing markets for shunned Russian oil

NEW DELHI (AP)—India and other Asian nations are becoming an increasingly vital source of oil revenues for Moscow despite strong pressure from the U.S. not to increase their purchases, as the European Union and other allies cut off energy imports from Russia in line with sanctions over its war on Ukraine. Such sales are boosting Russian export revenues at a time when Washington and allies are trying to limit financial flows supporting Moscow's war effort. India, an oil-hungry country of 1.4 billion people, has guzzled nearly 60 million barrels of Russian oil in 2022 so far, compared with 12 million barrels in all of 2021, according to commodity data firm Kpler. Shipments to other Asian countries, like China, have also increased in recent months but to a lesser extent.

World

Officials with Moscow backing trying to solidify Ukraine rule

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Kremlin-installed officials in occupied southern Ukraine celebrated Russia Day on Sunday and began issuing Russian passports to residents in one city who requested them, as Moscow sought to solidify its rule over captured parts of the country.

At one of the central squares in the city of Kherson, Russian bands played a concert to celebrate Russia Day, the holiday that marks Russia's emergence as a sovereign state after the collapse of the Soviet Union, according to Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti.

In the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, Moscow-installed officials raised a Russian flag in Melitopol's city center.

Ukrainian media reported that few, if any, local residents attended the Russia Day festivities in the two cities.

Russia Day was also celebrated in other occupied parts of Ukraine, including the ravaged southern port of Mariupol, where a new city sign painted in the colors of the Russian flag was unveiled on the outskirts and Russian flags were flown on a highway leading into the city.

Also, the Russia-aligned administration in Melitopol started handing out Russian passports to those who applied for Russian citizenship. RIA Novosti posted video of a Moscow-backed official congratulating new Russian citizens and telling them: "Russia will not go anywhere. We are here for good."

President Vladimir Putin earlier this year issued a decree fast-tracking Russian citizenship for residents of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. In captured cities in the south and east, Moscow has also introduced the ruble as official currency, aired Russian news broadcasts and taken steps to introduce a Russian school curriculum.

The Kremlin's administrators in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions have voiced plans to incorporate the areas into Russia, despite protests and signs of an insurgency among local residents.

Russian-installed officials Sunday in Melitopol reported an explosion in a garbage bin near the city's police headquarters and said two residents were injured.

Another blast was reported at an electrical substation in the city of Berdyansk, which is also under Russian control. The Kremlin-backed administration pronounced it a terrorist attack, and officials said electricity was shut down in parts of the city.

Belongings of 2 missing men are found tied underwater in Amazon

AP

Federal police officers arrive at the pier with items found during a search for Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira and freelance British journalist Dom Phillips in Atalaia do Norte, Amazonas state, Brazil, Sunday, June 12, 2022.

ATALAIA DO NORTE, Brazil (AP)—Brazil's search for an Indigenous expert and a journalist who disappeared in a restive area of the Amazon a week ago advanced with the discovery of a backpack, laptop and other personal belongings of the men submerged in a river.

The items were found Sunday afternoon, and were carried by Federal Police officers by boat to Atalaia do Norte, the closest city to the search. In a statement Sunday night, police said they had identified the items as the belongings of both missing men, including a health card and clothes of Bruno Pereira, the Brazilian Indigenous expert.

The backpack, which was identified as belonging to freelance journalist Dom Phillips of Britain, was found tied to a tree that was half-submerged, a firefighter told reporters in Atalaia do Norte. It is the end of the rainy season in the region and part of the forest is flooded.

The development came a day after police reported finding traces of blood in the boat of a fisherman who is under arrest as the only suspect in the disappearance. Officers also found organic matter of apparent human origin in the river. The materials are being analyzed.

Search teams that found the laptop and other items Sunday had concentrated their efforts around a spot in the Itaquai river where a tarp from the boat used by the missing men was found Saturday by volunteers from the Matis Indigenous group.

"We used a little canoe to go to the shallow water. Then we found a tarp, shorts and a spoon," one of the volunteers, Binin Beshu Matis, told The Associated Press.

Pereira, 41, and Phillips, 57, were last seen June 5 near the entrance of the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory, which borders Peru and Colombia. They were returning alone by boat on the Itaquai to Atalaia do Norte but never arrived.

Overdrive

2023 Nissan Z is a cool drink on a hot summer day

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The seventh-generation 2023 Z is scheduled to go on sale nationwide in summer 2022. NISSAN/TNS

Well, it's about time.

It seems like an eternity since we've had a new Nissan Z—and it has been. The 370Z debuted in 2009, and its predecessor, the 350Z arrived in 2002. Since the two are somewhat related mechanically, you can be excused for thinking the 2022 Nissan Z is older than Methuselah.

Before you throw rocks, consider its archrival, the Toyota Supra. It vanished from the scene sometime during the Clinton Administration after having grown noticeably in size and price alongside the Z. But whereas the 350Z returned to its roots in 2002, Toyota simply gave up on the Supra, content to peddle vanilla cars to vanilla customers—until 2019.

But upon its return, Toyota didn't engineer its own car, despite being the largest automaker in the world and possessing a large enough cash hoard to fund it. Instead, it gussied up the BMW Z4 with little resemblance to any Supra ever produced. And while the Supra is a good car, it isn't a good Toyota Supra because, well, it isn't really a Toyota Supra.

Despite being the smaller automaker with far less cash, Nissan engineered an all-new Z itself, despite the company's fragile international alliance with Renault and Mitsubishi set up by its fugitive ex-CEO Carlos Ghosn. It arrives as sports car sales in the U.S. have risen 25% in the past four years. Given that 75% of the Z's sales come from the U.S., the new Z's arrival is well-timed.

What the company has wrought should be as welcome as a cool drink on a sweltering summer day, one that's clearly a modern take on its most iconic vehicle.

Its look is familiar, resembling the concept revealed two years ago and wearing not only classic 240Z styling cues, but also others nicked from other generations, such as the tail lamps derived from those on the 300ZX. Up front, you'll find headlight shapes straight from the first generation, but updated with latest lighting technology. The Z's body lines and window shapes are updated, but archetypal Z. It's grille shape, said to be taken from the first Z, is the only part that seems off. Its plain, sizable maw seems a bit artless.

The new shape sits on a wheelbase that's unchanged from the 370Z, although the car is five inches longer overall. Far better looking than the Supra, the new Z is at once familiar and fresh, a new take on an old acquaintance. For now, Nissan only offers it as a coupe, the convertible having been axed in 2019.

Lift the Z's long hood and you'll find a familiar face, Nissan's twin-turbocharged 3.0-liter V-6 that's also used in the Infiniti Q50 and Q60 Red Sport. It generates 400 horsepower and 350 pound-feet of torque through a six-speed manual transmission with high-performance clutch or a nine-speed automatic with drive modes and launch control. That's up from 332 horsepower and 270 pound-feet in the 370Z.

Nissan has engineered the transmissions for its high-performance prodigy. The six-speed manual allows you to accelerate while shifting without lifting your foot off the throttle, while the automatic allows for some tire bark before giving in to grip. Needless to say, it works as advertised, bringing a grin to your face.

Remarkably, the vehicle's underlying architecture doesn't reveal its age, proving to be a solid, stiff foundation for the task at hand thanks to a 10.8 percent increase in torsional stiffness aided and abetted by wider tires.

What results once you're behind the wheel is a consummate sports car. No, it's not the fastest; if you need that, opt for the beastly Nissan GT-R. Instead, Nissan delivers a car that's joy to drive, with precise steering, and handling that's as predictable as the sun rising in the east and setting in the west. This is one steed you'll want to exercise, and exercise hard. OK, the electric steering could use a bit more feel, but you'll find the suspension's monotube dampers provide the perfect balance of roll stiffness and comfort. Adept at whatever you throw at it, either on the track or on your favorite two-lane, the Z makes for a most wonderful dance partner. No wonder it was originally called the Fairlady Z in Japan, after the musical. It will leave your soul singing.

Best of all, the cozy two-seat cabin keeps the updates to the essentials, so you can concentrate on driving. The Z is offered in Sport and up-level Performance trim. An eight-inch touchscreen and a six-speaker audio system are standard on the Sport; a nine-inch screen and a Bose eight-speaker audio system with noise cancellation and a Wi-Fi hotspot are standard on the Performance. Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, Bluetooth and SiriusXM Radio are standard on all models. Best of all, the Z's classic center-mounted gauges remain intact, providing readouts for turbocharger boost, turbocharger turbine speed and voltmeter.

Opt for the Proto Spec on Performance models and you'll get an exclusive shift lever knob, exclusive leather-appointed seats with yellow accents, exclusive Proto Spec suede + cloth door trim with yellow stitching, and special Proto Spec interior stitching, as well as yellow-colored brake calipers and bronze-colored aluminum-alloy wheels.

But no matter what hue you opt for, you'll find it will color your with a performance vibe that can only come from a new old friend.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **Base price**: $39,990-$52,990
- **Engine**: 3.0-liter DOHC twin-turbocharged V-6
- **Horsepower/Torque**: 400/350 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy**: Not available
- **Fuel required**: Premium
- **Length/Width/Height**: 172.4/72.6/51.8 inches
- **Ground clearance**: 4.8 inches
- **Cargo capacity**: 6.9 cubic feet

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How the gas pedal works

Q: When I press down the gas pedal of my 2012 Toyota Camry, sometimes I get no response. I have to jiggle the pedal before the engine will respond. One articulate mechanic explained that there is no mechanical linkage between pedal and carburetor, and the problem must lie in the computer. He didn't know how to fix it, however. This doesn't happen very often, but when I need to accelerate this slight hesitation is annoying.

A: Your car, and most other newer ones, are "drive-by-wire." There is no mechanical link between the throttle (no carb) and the throttle pedal. Instead, a sensor signals the movement of the gas pedal, and the computer sends a command to an electromechanical device to open the throttle plate. By default, the throttle will close if there is no signal from the gas pedal. The problem may lie with the gas pedal sensor, the throttle control device or in the computer. My guess is the gas pedal sensor.

Q: In a recent column you referred to the "55 mph speed limit, as was imposed during the Carter administration." That is incorrect. It was imposed during the Nixon administration. I was there.

A: Oops. During the Carter administration, I believe the restriction was a limit of 55 peanuts per package. You've got to trust me on this, I am not a crook.

Q: Some things have been bothering me for over a year now, so I thought I needed some professional help. A year ago in March my wife and I bought a brand-new Hyundai Sonata from a dealer. After negotiations we had to see the business office person. As we looked at the order and invoice we noticed charges for dealer handling, $303, and $299 for VSP etching. None of these add-ons were on the sticker. We were told that all new vehicles come with these charges, and they can't do anything about it. Is this for real or just another way to get more money from the buyer?

A: Some charges are non-negotiable such as the destination fee. But other stuff is a way to make more money (would you like the combination meal with a drink?). Etching, for instance is not required. Fabric protection is not required. Locking lug nuts are not required. And so on. You can ask that the charges be removed but expect a fight. You have the mother of all negotiation tools, your feet. Walk away from the deal and shop somewhere else.

Q: Apparently, I overfilled my gas tank on my Ford F250. The check engine light has been on ever since -- almost 1,000 miles. Are there any long-term consequences?

A: The charcoal canister in the evaporative emissions system is likely saturated with liquid gasoline. It needs to be replaced. Your fuel economy may go down. Your car won't pass a state emissions inspections test.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Q: Why is the cost of fuel reported to the third decimal point? I have never seen anything but a 9 in this position. Wouldn't it be cheaper to manufacture pump readouts to the nearest penny?

A: It may be a shortcut to round the figures, but someone will get shorted while someone else benefits. In the past, analog pumps reported the amount of fuel dispensed quite accurately. To approach perfect accuracy, the digital reading goes to one thousandth of a cent.

Life & Style

With 'Jurassic World 3,' dinosaurs rule again at box office

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Move over Maverick, the dinosaurs have arrived to claim their throne.

"Jurassic World: Dominion" took a mighty bite out of the box office with $143.4 million in North American ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. Including earnings from international showings—the film opened in various markets last weekend—"Jurassic World: Dominion," released globally by Universal Pictures, has already grossed $389 million. And it's just getting started.

"We couldn't be happier," said Jim Orr, Universal's head of domestic distribution. "'Jurassic World: Dominion' had a very broad and ridiculously enthusiastic audience."

The hefty haul is yet another sign that the box office is continuing to rebound this summer. With the blockbuster successes of films like "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," "Top Gun: Maverick" and now "Jurassic World 3," audiences are coming back to movie theaters more consistently.

The film, which had a reported $185 million price tag not accounting for marketing and promotion costs, opened on 4,676 screens in the U.S. and Canada, starting with preview showings Thursday. Audiences were 56% male and 54% over the age of 25, according to Universal.

Critics were not kind to the dino extravaganza, but audiences seem to be enjoying themselves based on exit polls. Moviegoers gave it an A- CinemaScore and an 81% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes, suggesting that word of mouth will be strong in the coming weeks.

"You want to see dinosaurs on the big screen, it doesn't matter what critics thought," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

And many moviegoers did opt for the biggest screens possible. Globally, IMAX showings of "Jurassic World: Dominion" represented $25 million of the total. The 3D format also accounted for around 25% of worldwide ticket sales.

"The appetite for the colossal creatures in this franchise is still voracious, and the way audiences want to experience this movie is in 3D," said Travis Reid, the CEO and president of Cinema for RealD, in a statement.

Both "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Jurassic World: Dominion" are an important caveat for an industry that continues to learn new lessons about pandemic-era moviegoing every week. Although both films are legacy sequels, neither are of the superhero variety, which, for a long time, had seemed like the only pandemic-proof genre.

"Top Gun: Maverick" is still coasting in rarefied skies too: It fell only 44% in its third weekend with an estimated $50 million to take second place, bringing its North American total north of $393.3 million. "Doctor Strange 2," in its sixth weekend, was a distant third with $4.9 million.

This weekend is only the third of the pandemic era in which the total domestic box office surpassed $200 million, according to box office tracker Comscore. The others were "Spider Man: No Way Home," in December, and "Doctor Strange 2," in May. But this is the first time there has been space for two movies to do well.

"Pretty much all the big blockbuster weekends that we've had over the pandemic have been dominated by one movie," Dergarabedian said. "In this case, we have two big blockbusters in theaters at once. This is the recipe for success that theater owners have been waiting for over the course of the pandemic. It's an important milestone."

"Dominion," a co-production of Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment, is the third film in the "Jurassic World" trilogy, which began in 2015 and introduced characters played by Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard. The newest installment brings back actors Laura Dern, Sam Neill and Jeff Goldblum from Steven Spielberg's 1993 "Jurassic Park."

Colin Trevorrow, who stewarded the "World" trilogy and directed the first film, returned to direct "Dominion," in which dinosaurs are no longer contained and locusts are threatening the world's food supply.

The filmmakers have said "Dominion" is intended to be the last of the "Jurassic World" films, which have been enormously profitable with over $3 billion in ticket sales. The first earned over $1.7 billion globally alone. Including the original "Jurassic Park" trilogy, that number skyrockets to $5 billion.

Wreck of 17th-century royal warship found off UK coast

LONDON (AP)—Explorers and historians are telling the world about the discovery of the wreck of a royal warship that sank in 1682 while carrying a future king of England, Ireland and Scotland.

The HMS Gloucester, traveling from southern England to Scotland, ran aground while navigating sandbanks off the town of Great Yarmouth on the eastern English coast. It sank within an hour, killing an estimated 130 to 250 crew and passengers.

James Stuart, the son of King Charles I, survived. He went on to reign as King James II of England and Ireland, and as James VII of Scotland from 1685 to 1688, when he was deposed by the Glorious Revolution.

The wreck of the Gloucester was found in 2007 by brothers Julian and Lincoln Barnwell and others after a four-year search. It was firmly identified in 2012 with discovery of the ship's bell.

AP

In this undated photo provided by Norfolk Historic Shipwrecks, Julian And Lincoln Barnwell measure the cannon found on the HMS Gloucester in 2007.

The discovery was only made public Friday because of the time it took to confirm the identity of the ship and the need to protect the historical site.

Claire Jowitt, an expert in maritime history at the University of East Anglia, said the wreck was "one of the important 'almost' moments in English history." The Gloucester's sinking almost caused the death of the Catholic heir to the Protestant throne at a time of great political and religious tension in Britain.

"If he had died, we would have had a very different British and European history as a result," Jowitt said.

"I think this is a time capsule that offers the opportunity to find it out so much about life on a 17th-century ship. The royal nature of the ship is absolutely incredible and unique," she added.

She believes the wreck is the most important maritime discovery since the Mary Rose, the warship from the Tudor navy of King Henry VIII. The Mary Rose capsized with a crew of around 500 in 1545 in the Solent, a strait between the Isle of Wight and the British mainland. A huge salvage operation brought it back to the surface in 1982.

Recovering alcoholic feels helpless as cousin implodes

DEAR ABBY: I was an alcoholic. I have been sober since 1994. I live with my elderly aunt and assist her while working in ministry. Her son lives with us and is, basically, a hopeless alcoholic. He drinks all day and lies on the couch. I know that if this continues, it will be fatal.

We have tried to get him into two or three rehabs, and I can't count how many times he's been to the hospital for detox. After his last stint in rehab, he came back and was drinking again three days later. Because I don't know what else to do, I have committed myself to saying, "Well, if he wants to drink himself to death, there's nothing I can do."

Am I doing the right thing or IS there something else I can try? I mean, it's not my house, so I can't throw him out. I don't even broach the subject with my aunt anymore.

CONFLICTED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR CONFLICTED: Congratulations for hanging onto your sobriety. I can only imagine the stress you are experiencing watching your cousin drink himself to death. If at all possible, it might be beneficial to you if you found other living arrangements while assisting your aunt.

Your aunt—not you—as well-meaning as she may be, is her son's enabler. Her passivity is partly responsible for what's happening to her son, not you. You have done everything you can, and you cannot save him from himself. Your aunt may need counseling to help her break the unhealthy pattern that has been set with her son. Please suggest this to her. I hope she is receptive.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My friend has this habit of phoning me while she is walking her dog or driving somewhere. To put it bluntly, she calls when she is otherwise engaged and biding her time until she finishes the walk or reaches her destination.

When she walks "Gonzo," I have to contend with his barking, her admonishing Gonzo for pulling on the leash, or the wind, which makes it difficult to hear her. When she's driving, the connection is often iffy. She has done this for years, but recently it has started to seriously annoy me. I wish she would call when she's sitting in a quiet room and not preoccupied with something else. Is that too much to ask? How can I politely tell her this?

TICKED OFF IN TEXAS

DEAR TICKED OFF: It shouldn't be too hard. "Politely" tell her you would prefer she NOT call you while she's walking Gonzo or driving— particularly the latter because it's dangerous and you would hate to have her miss her exit or get into an accident because she was distracted. THEN tell her you prefer talking with her when she's in a place that's safe to talk and she's not distracted. If she persists after that, ask when she'll be home, suggest you talk "later" and hang up.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

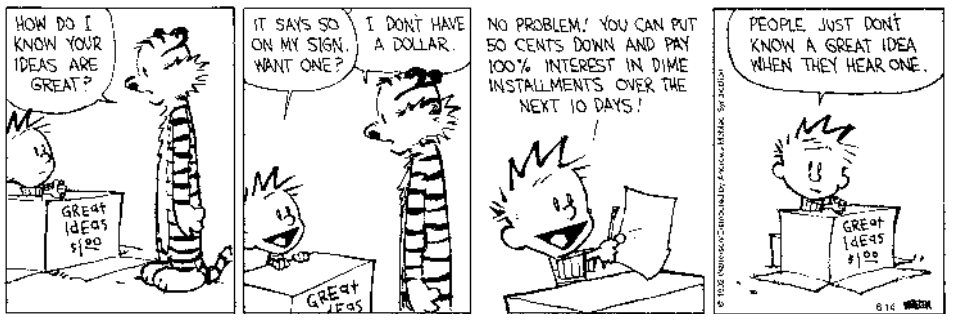
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW DO I KNOW YOUR IDEAS ARE GREAT?
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I DON'T HAVE A DOLLAR.
GREAT IDEAS
NO PROBLEM! YOU CAN PUT 50 CENTS DOWN AND PAY 100% INTEREST IN DIME INSTALLMENTS OVER THE NEXT 10 DAYS!
PEOPLE JUST DON'T KNOW A GREAT IDEA WHEN THEY HEAR ONE.
GREAT IDEAS $1.00

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I HAVE AN IDEA, PERCY.
YOU KNOW HOW OUR LITTLE SISTERS ARE BOTH AWFUL?
I DO.
SO, I WAS THINKING...
WE SHIP THEM TO ANTARCTICA?
I WAS THINKING "SISTER-CANCELING HEADPHONES," BUT YOURS IS GOOD, TOO.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY SOFTBALL TEAM SENT ME DOWN TO THE MINORS TO PLAY T-BALL WITH 6-YEAR-OLDS! NOW I'M A BIG JOKE.
NONSENSE! LET ME BUY YOU A DRINK.
THANKS, PAL.
BARTENDER, CAN I GET A JUICE BOX OVER HERE?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

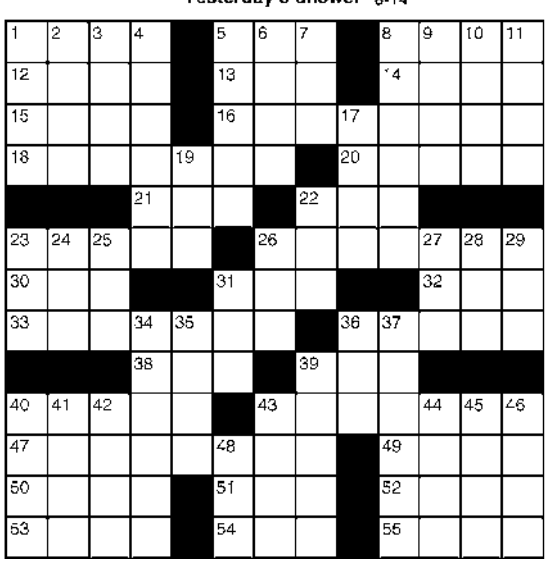
ACROSS
1 Begged
5 Rx overseer
8 Exile isle
12 Days gone by
13 Bit of physics
14 Profound
15 Historic Parks
16 Interlaces
18 Tourney hopeful
20 Make amends
21 Prefix for "night" or "morning"
22 Brazilian city
23 "Bolero" composer
26 Beseech
30 Literary collection
31 Overhead trains
32 Bro or sis
33 Tempted
36 Ghana's capital
38 Sturdy tree
39 Roswell sighting
40 Praises
43 City in Uganda
47 Deserving
49 Aussie hoppers
50 — impasse
51 Pub pint
52 Point
53 Sneaky laughs
54 Neighbor of Leb.
55 Online crafts site

DOWN
1 Burning heap
2 Lake bird
3 Formerly, once
4 "Heavens!"
5 Enthusiast
6 Word of warning
7 Busy insect
8 Newspaper chief
9 Comic Jay
10 Existed
11 Church area
17 Sit tight
19 Be sick
22 Hosp. workers
23 Singer Carly — Jepsen
24 New England cape
25 Cistern
26 Days of yore
27 Computer key
28 Melody
29 TV schedule abbr.
31 "A spider!"
34 Topical antiseptic
35 Group of actors
36 Sternward
37 Strong-arm
39 Hypnotized
40 Sister of Rachel
41 Pot starter
42 Nevada neighbor
43 Slithery
44 Boxing match
45 Employer
46 Catch sight of
48 Scale notes

Solution time: 22 mins.

H	L	A	W		H	A	R		S	H	O	E
L	O	G	E		E	L	O		T	U	N	A
E	A	R	L		M	I	D	T	E	R	M	S
A	M	A	L	F	I		S	U	R	E	Y	
			U	L	N	A		B	E	Y		
M	I	D	P	O	I	N	T		O	O	P	S
A	R	E		E	S		E	E		F	D	R
R	S	V	P		M	I	D	R	I	F	F	S
		I	R	A		S		A	M			
S	A	L	A	M	I		A	T	B	A	T	S
M	I	D	W	I	V	E	S		E	L	I	A
U	D	O	N		A	S	S		A	L	E	G
T	A	G	S		N	E	C		T	I	D	E

Yesterday's answer 6-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lucy Hale, 33; Kevin McHale, 34; Diablo Cody, 44; Boy George, 61.

Happy Birthday: Stabilize your life. Fewer risks will lead to security and ease stress. Plan your path carefully. You'll discover what makes you happy once you take a minimalist approach to life. A change in circumstances is within reach, but you must begin the process. Take nothing for granted, and expect to do the work yourself. Your numbers are 3, 10, 19, 23, 33, 40, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You'll gain momentum by focusing on what matters. Being well-informed will help you find solutions to issues that surface when dealing with a friend, relative or colleague. A rational approach will help you gain respect and support from influential people. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Being frivolous or trying to impress someone using money will tempt you, but in the end, you'll have regrets. Be willing to follow through before you make promises or sign up for something that conflicts with your routine or beliefs. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll get what you deserve if you give your best effort. An attentive attitude will help you pick out any flaws that may hold you back. Rely on your energy and mastery to help you get things done on time and to your expectations. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Intuition and emotion will lead to assumptions and poor decisions. Use your imagination productively to work toward a satisfying goal. A physical change will lead to compliments that give your ego a boost. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take better care of yourself and your reputation. A sudden change of plans can damage your position if you are all talk and no action. Put your heart and soul into whatever you do, and keep the momentum flowing. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Your power of persuasion will win support. An issue will arise if you or someone you work alongside isn't honest, straightforward or careful when handling responsibilities. Verify information before proceeding. A romantic gesture or compliment will take you by surprise. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Spend time with a friend or relative. Discuss issues that can influence your relationship. Look over shared expenses or joint ventures, and recap the pros and cons before you make a move. Be innovative but mindful of others, and remain within budget. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Lighten up and share your thoughts and feelings. The changes you implement will help you discover what's possible. Put a budget in place that will encourage you to make positive adjustments at home and to how you handle money. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Working with those who can help you advance will be beneficial. A change at home will push you to take on a new project or share something special with someone you love. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be secretive. If you overreact, it will be challenging to get what you want. Consider the logistics of a situation or a plan; use your charm and know-how to convince others to help put your ideas to the test. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't dawdle, or you'll fall behind. Maintain where you are rather than stretch for something that isn't attainable. Adjust your plans, and use your intelligence to set priorities and put things in place. Keep up and be observant. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Embrace fitness and lifestyle changes. Be thorough, but keep your plans secret until you have tested every adjustment you want to make. A new look or image will attract attention and cause resentment from someone possessive or jealous. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, energetic and opportunistic. You are pioneering and an idealist.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5				3
						2	
1		3	6	8	9	4	
7		5			4		
3							6
			9			8		4
		7	8	3	2	5		9
	5							
6				4			

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Yesterday's Answer

7	3	1	9	2	4	6	8	5
8	4	6	1	5	7	9	2	3
2	9	5	3	6	8	1	4	7
4	7	2	8	1	6	5	3	9
5	8	9	4	7	3	2	1	6
1	6	3	2	9	5	8	7	4
9	5	8	7	4	2	3	6	1
3	1	4	6	8	9	7	5	2
6	2	7	5	3	1	4	9	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHALE WATCHING IN BAJA Solution: 11 letters

P	R	N	O	I	T	C	A	R	E	Ⓣ	N	I	E	S
T	E	O	E	S	I	U	R	C	R	Ⓐ	G	N	A	P
K	S	N	T	F	N	E	C	O	T	Ⓒ	U	R	S	E
C	H	A	I	A	X	O	T	P	B	Ⓑ	E	G	O	R
A	C	C	I	N	R	I	O	W	R	R	S	N	B	M
B	A	P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	O	I	S	E
P	O	F	T	I	U	U	P	L	A	R	L	K	E	P
M	R	R	V	O	R	H	L	O	C	L	C	A	R	A
U	P	I	C	S	U	I	T	A	H	A	S	Y	V	D
H	P	E	I	A	K	R	S	N	P	A	R	A	E	D
A	A	N	I	R	O	C	I	X	E	M	R	K	D	L
N	G	D	B	E	P	E	E	S	E	V	L	A	C	E
G	S	L	A	M	M	A	M	D	T	W	A	T	E	R
L	U	Y	A	A	I	H	A	B	N	S	Y	A	R	G
E	C	C	E	C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	S

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Angle, Approach, Bahia, Blue, Boat, Breach, California, Calves, Camera, Camp, Close, Crew, Cruise, Decks, Ecotours, Enthusiast, Friendly, Gear, Gray, Humpback, Interaction, Kayaking, Killer, Lagoon, Mammals, Mexico, Nursing, Observed, Ocean, Operator, Orcas, Pacific, Pack, Paddler, Panga, Passenger, Peninsula, Seas, Sperm, Tourists, Visitor, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Socializing

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 53 through 68, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Braves win 11th straight, Phils have 9-game streak stopped

ATLANTA (AP)—Adam Duvall homered twice off José Quintana, William Contreras and Matt Olson also connected, and the Atlanta Braves won their 11th straight game, 5-3 over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday.

The defending World Series champion Braves began the day having trimmed five games off the New York Mets' division lead since the winning streak started June 1. They are 5½ games back in the NL East. This stretch is the club's best since it won 14 in a row from July 26 to Aug. 9, 2013. During the streak, Atlanta has outscored opponents 74-30 with 22 homers. The pitching staff has a 2.32 ERA over the same span.

Pittsburgh has lost a season-high six straight games. The Pirates were swept for the fifth time this season.

Wright (7-3) allowed five hits and three runs with two walks and seven strikeouts in six innings. Kenley Jansen earned his 18th save in 21 chances after facing four batters in the ninth.

Quintana (1-4) was charged with six hits and four runs in five innings and had allowed two runs or fewer in nine of his previous 11 starts.

AP

Atlanta Braves third base coach Ron Washington, left, shakes hands with Adam Duvall after solo home run in the second inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Sunday, June 12, 2022, in Atlanta.

Diamondbacks 13, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Christian Walker had three hits and three RBIs, Jake McCarthy homered and Arizona ended Philadelphia's nine-game winning streak, giving interim manager Rob Thomson his first loss.

Ketel Marte and Alek Thomas each drove in two runs for Arizona, which finished a 10-game trip 4-6.

The Phillies lost for the first time since May 31, and Thomson was beaten for the first time since replacing Joe Girardi on June 3. Thomson's eight wins to start his managing tenure matched the most for a Phillies skipper and is second overall to Boston's Joe Morgan, who won 12 straight in 1988.

Yankees 18, Cubs 4

In New York, Matt Carpenter homered twice and tied his career high with seven RBIs, powering the New York Yankees to complete a weekend sweep of the Chicago Cubs for their 11th win in 12 games.

The 36-year-old Carpenter, signed on May 26 after spending the first seven weeks at Texas' Triple-A Round Rock, became the second player since 1900 to hit six home runs in his first 10 games for a team after Colorado's Trevor Story in 2016.

Kyle Higashioka added his first two homers this season, and Giancarlo Stanton and Isiah Kiner-Falefa had three RBIs each as the Yankees scored their most runs since beating Toronto 20-6 on Sept. 15, 2020. New York had a season-high 17 hits.

Brewers 4, Nationals 1

In Washington, Willy Adames homered and drove in three runs, helping Milwaukee snap an eight-game losing streak.

Milwaukee's Craig Counsell tied Phil Garner for the most managerial victories in franchise history with 563 as the Brewers snapped their longest skid since September 2015.

Washington was denied its first sweep since taking two from Toronto on Aug. 17-18 of last year and its first three-game sweep since June 14-16, 2021 against Pittsburgh. It was the first time this season the last-place Nationals entered the final game of a series with a chance at a sweep.

Andrew McCutchen added a solo homer in the ninth, his fourth of the season and first since May 21 against Washington.

Mets 4, Angels 1

In Los Angeles, J.D. Davis and Pete Alonso homered, Taijuan Walker struck out 10 and the New York Mets closed out their long trip to California with a victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Starling Marte had two hits and drove in a run in his return to the lineup after missing three games with quadriceps tightness. Jeff McNeil had three hits for the Mets, who took two of three at The Big A to go 5-5 on their season-high 10-game trip.

Walker (4-2), who had only 25 strikeouts in his first nine starts, posted his 10th career game with double-digit Ks. He gave up one run on six hits in six innings. Edwin Díaz got five outs for his 12th save. He had five strikeouts, including getting Trout to whiff on a 99.7 mph fastball in the eighth inning.

Mike Trout had an RBI single for the Angels, who lost five of seven during a homestand when Joe Maddon was fired as manager. Reigning AL MVP Shohei Ohtani was given the day off.

Astros 9, Marlins 4

In Houston, Justin Verlander earned his major league-leading eighth win, Jeremy Peña and Jose Altuve homered and Houston snapped its three-game losing streak.

Verlander (8-2) set down the first 10 batters he faced before giving up a flare single into shallow right field in the fourth inning. He gave up four unearned runs and three hits, walked one and struck out five in seven innings, lowering his ERA to 1.94. This was Verlander's first career win against Miami and third straight start to go seven innings.

Houston was 3 for 35 with runners in scoring position during the series and had pushed across just two runs over the previous 12 innings before breaking out in the fourth.

Giants 2, Dodgers 0

In San Francisco, Carlos Rodón pitched two-hit ball over six strong innings and San Francisco completed a three-game sweep of the division-leading Dodgers, beating Los Angeles.

Austin Slater and Mike Yastrzemski homered off Julio Urías in the first to send the stumbling Dodgers to their sixth loss in eight games.

Chris Taylor doubled twice for Los Angeles, but was forced out of the game after suffering a cut near his right eye when he crashed into the fence in left field trying to make a catch.

The Dodgers remained one-half game ahead of San Diego in the NL West. The Giants pulled within 3 ½ games of first place.

Guardians 6, Athletics 3

In Cleveland, José Ramírez had three RBIs, including a two-run double in the first inning, to continue his torrid production and Cleveland defeated Oakland.

Ramírez, who leads the majors with 59 RBIs, pulled a double down the left-field line that put Cleveland ahead after Oakland scored a run in the top of the inning. The three-time All-Star added an RBI groundout in the seventh and has driven in 25 runs over the last 21 games.

Cal Quantrill (4-3) allowed one run in six innings, a solo home run by Ramón Laureano in the first. Emmanuel Clase pitched the ninth for his 11th save and Cleveland took three of four in the series.

Rangers 8, White Sox 6, 12 innings

In Chicago, Jonah Heim hit a two-run single in the 12th inning and Texas turned a double play on a ball hit to the warning track to end a win over the Chicago White Sox.

Embattled manager Tony La Russa and the White Sox have lost four of five. This one began with right-hander Michael Kopech leaving with right knee discomfort after 13 pitches and ended with an unusual double play in the 12th.

José Abreu struck out looking against Kolby Allard leading off, then Jake Burger hit a fly to the warning track in left. Charlie Culberson caught the ball, then threw out automatic runner Luis Robert trying to tag up and take third. Robert overslid the base and was tagged easily by Ezequiel Duran, setting off a loud round of boos.

In the top of the inning, Adolis García singled off Matt Foster (1-2) and scored on Heim's single. A review confirmed García was safe on the slide.

Duran hit a three-run homer off José Ruiz in the 11th, but the Rangers surrendered their 6-3 lead. Seby Zavala had a sac fly off Joe Barlow (2-1). Danny Mendick tripled when Culberson and center fielder Eli White collided, cutting the deficit to one. AJ Pollock singled to tie it.

Red Sox 2, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Rafael Devers hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, spot starter Kutter Crawford and five relievers combined on a one-hitter and Boston edged Seattle.

Boston closed out a successful West Coast swing by shutting down Seattle's offense, allowing only Luis Torrens' single in the fifth inning. The Red Sox finished 8-2 on a 10-game trip.

After reliever Paul Sewald hit Rob Refsnyder on a 2-2 fastball in the eighth, he was ahead 0-2 to Devers and threw a fastball well outside the strike zone. Devers got his barrel to the pitch and drove it into Boston's bullpen in left for his 14th homer.

Blue Jays 6, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered, Ross Stripling pitched one-hit ball for six innings and Toronto beat Detroit.

The Blue Jays took two of three from Detroit, giving them 13 victories in 17 games. Toronto has the third-best record in the American League, trailing the East-leading New York Yankees in its division and West-leading Houston.

Reds 7, Cardinals 6

In St. Louis, TJ Friedl hit a tie-breaking triple in the seventh inning and Tommy Pham added a solo homer as Cincinnati beat St. Louis to snap a four-game losing streak.

Friedl broke a 4-4 tie with a long drive to right field and Albert Almora Jr. followed with a sacrifice fly. Pham homered against his former team in the eighth.

Jeff Hoffman (1-0) picked up the win with 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. Alexis Diaz posted his second save.

Nolan Arenado and Juan Yepez homered for the Cardinals, who have lost four of six.

Rays 6, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Jeffrey Springs threw two-hit ball into the sixth inning, Randy Arozarena stole two bases after twice getting hit by pitches and Tampa Bay beat Minnesota.

Springs (3-2) continued his impressive transition to the starting rotation. He struck out five and walked two in 5 1/3 innings against a Twins team that had scored a combined 15 runs in winning the first two games of the series.

Arozarena was hit by a pair of pitches twice and visibly upset with Minnesota starter Cole Sands. Arozarena then stole two bases and added an RBI double.

Kevin Kiermaier hit a solo home run for Tampa Bay.

Rockies 4, Padres 2

In San Diego, Ryan McMahon hit a go-ahead, two-run double with two outs in the eighth and Germán Márquez pitched seven strong innings to lead Colorado past San Diego.

The Rockies won consecutive games to split the four-game series with the Padres, who played a second straight game without manager Bob Melvin. He went into COVID-19 protocols Saturday night along with bench coach Ryan Christenson before the second game of a doubleheader. Quality control coach Ryan Flaherty managed the Padres again.

San Diego's Manny Machado had two singles, leaving him two hits shy of 1,500.

With the score tied at 2 and two outs in the eighth, McMahon doubled into the right field corner off Luis García (4-3) to bring in Sam Hilliard and José Iglesias. C.J. Cron and Iglesias hit consecutive one-out singles and Hilliard pinch-ran for Cron.

Orioles 10, Royals 7

In Kansas City, Mo., Anthony Santander, Ryan Mountcastle and Rougned Odor hit solo home runs, leading Baltimore past Kansas City.

Dean Kremer (1-1) tossed five innings and allowed one earned run and four hits. Cionel Pérez notched his first save of the season.

Baltimore jumped on Brad Keller (1-8) with three homers in the first two innings. Santander hit a 455-foot drive into the right-field fountains in the first. Mountcastle and Odor hit back-to-back home runs to start a four-run second. It was the fifth time this season and the third in June that the Orioles hit back-to-back homers.

With NBA Finals tied at 2, Celtics try to stop Stephen Curry

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—As the Boston Celtics search for answers in an effort to stop Stephen Curry in these NBA Finals, they know even their best defense won't always be good enough.

"Steph Curry is pretty good, if you guys haven't noticed. He can shoot the ball unbelievably," Boston guard Jaylen Brown said Sunday. "Even watching it, playing against it and even in the finals, I feel like he's taking it up a notch a little bit. He had a hell of a performance in Game 4, and we have to respond to that."

Whether the Celtics can do a better job containing the two-time MVP will be a major key as the best-of-seven series resumes at Chase Center on Monday night with the teams tied 2-2.

Coach Ime Udoka is calling for the Celtics to mix things up and be more physical on the heels of Curry's 43-point masterpiece in the Warriors' 107-97 victory Friday in Boston.

Udoka will allow his guards some leeway in deciding exactly where to begin pressuring Golden State's superstar — often starting well beyond the 3-point arc with the big men staying at the ready to assist.

Curry went 14 for 26 with seven 3-pointers and also grabbed 10 rebounds. Once he finds a rhythm, he can hit from anywhere, even with a defender's hand in his face. But Udoka realizes how the career 3-point leader can quickly become just as dangerous a playmaker, too.

"Obviously, the range extends the floor some. Some of the shots that he's hitting are only shots that he can hit and have been highly contested," Udoka said. "He's hit a few of those."

The 34-year-old Curry recorded the second-best scoring performance of his career on the finals stage — second only to the 47 points he put up in Game 3 of 2019 against eventual champion Toronto — and joined Michael Jordan and LeBron James as the only players age 34 or older with at least 40 points in a finals game.

So, was watching the film session from Friday's game almost as fun for Curry as what he did during it?

"Whether you play well individually or not, you always know what happens at the end. It's like watching the end of a movie. It's always nice to know that the movie turns out great at the end," he said.

"But I think it's more so just the balance of watching what worked and trying to understand those patterns so that you can repeat that for the next game. Maybe anticipate some adjustments that might happen. Try to slow it down and try to be one step ahead of that. In the meantime, also watching a lot of different reactions in the crowd and on the bench and stuff like that, too. That's always some good entertainment."

AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, 30, reacts after hitting a three pointer during the fourth quarter of Game 4 of basketball's NBA Finals, in Boston, Mass., on Friday, June 10, 2022.

KLAY REFRESH

Klay Thompson posted on social media he jumped in the bay Saturday for an open-water swim.

He wrote: "The ocean heals the mind, body & soul."

Curry's Splash Brother scored 18 points on 7-for-17 shooting in Game 4. Thompson's 35.8% shooting is the lowest for any NBA Finals he has played, and he is making just 34.2% from deep — down from 58.5% on 3s in the 2019 finals.

Monday will mark the three-year anniversary of when he got injured in those finals, during the Warriors' decisive Game 6 loss to Toronto that clinched the Raptors' first title at Oracle Arena. Thompson tore the ACL in his left knee that required surgery and began a more than 2 1/2-year absence. During that stretch he also tore his right Achilles tendon and needed that repaired.

CURRY'S KICKS

When told he is 3-0 in his purple game sneakers, Curry could only laugh and hope he hadn't now been jinxed.

And, no, he wasn't keeping track of that obscure stat.

"I did not even know that, so I appreciate you," Curry said. "I don't know if that messes with the juju on there if I'm aware of the record now. I've got a lot of different colors, so we'll see. We'll see what happens. Got me thinking now, too."

INJURY REPORT

Celtics center Robert Williams III is still dealing with soreness in his troublesome left knee. He had surgery in March to repair torn cartilage before returning for Game 3 of the first round against Brooklyn. The Celtics continue to monitor him, though Udoka said the 6-foot-9 big man was better Sunday.

Boston didn't find a specific moment on film that showed when Williams might have re-aggravated the tender knee.

"Doing better, the day off, the rest, equaled with today and tomorrow, optimistic he'll be good to go," Udoka said. "But we'll test it before the game as usual."

Green looks to make impact for Warriors even without scoring

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—When the Golden State Warriors made their fourth-quarter push to get back into the NBA Finals, Draymond Green had the unusual role as spectator.

The versatile Green, who has been one of the stalwarts of Golden State's dynasty, got pulled in crunch time of Game 4 in what was both a shocking — and effective — decision by coach Steve Kerr.

Now with the series shifting back to California tied heading into Game 5 on Monday night, Kerr said he has no concerns about what he'll get out of Green the rest of the way.

"Draymond is Draymond. He's going to bring it every night," Kerr said Sunday. "I think the thing that maybe got lost the other night is how good he was down the stretch. He ends up in the game with four steals. He was brilliant defensively. He did what we needed to do to win the game."

Green said he wasn't "thrilled" by Kerr's decision in Game 4 on Friday night in Boston to send him to the bench with the Warriors down four points with 7:32 to play.

But the move worked well, with Golden State going on an 11-4 run behind a lineup featuring Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Jordan Poole, Andrew Wiggins and Kevon Looney.

Green returned with 3:41 to play and the Warriors ahead 97-94, then shuttled in and out with Poole as Kerr mostly used Green when Golden State was on defense. The plan worked and Golden State won 107-97 to tie the series at two games apiece.

"I think I made an impact on the game the whole game," Green said. "I think you can get caught up in everything that's going around, but those that watch and understand basketball, I made an impact the entire game. So I don't think there was a switch last couple minutes."

Green has been one of the key cogs on the Warriors ever since Kerr arrived in the 2014-15 season and immediately elevated Green into a starting role ahead of Andre Iguodala.

Green's versatility defensively was key to Golden State's small-ball lineups and his playmaking skills helped take advantage whenever opponents tried to double-team Curry.

Kerr has had to tinker more with his lineups this year instead of finding which center — if any — worked best with his stars.

"This feels a little bit different this year," Kerr said. "There's been a little bit more mixing and matching. Really proud of the group, everybody, for staying ready and staying prepared and not allowing that to sort of change and alterations from game to game to bother them."

While Green has remained a defensive stalwart, his offensive game his fallen off as he has almost stopped taking 3-pointers and rarely even looks for his shot.

After setting the tone defensively in a Game 2 win at home, Green was almost invisible on the offensive end in the two games in Boston and was even exploited at times defensively in a Game 3 loss.

Green scored just four points on 2-for-11 shooting for the two games in Boston but did contribute nine rebounds, eight assists and four steals in Game 4.

Green is shooting just 23% in the series and averaging 4.3 points, leading Kerr to go with Looney in his place in key moments when he only wanted one non-shooter on the court.

If the Warriors are going to take two more games and win a fourth championship during this run, they likely will need to find more offensive help for Curry.

Curry has scored 32.5% of Golden State's points this series, the third-highest total in the NBA Finals in the past 15 seasons behind only two years for LeBron James in Cleveland.

Curry said the key the next few games will be adjusting to how the Celtics have handled Golden State's "pet plays" and that Green is the perfect player to help make that happen.

"I think he is going to do an amazing job of adapting and figuring out where he can find his angles, his ways to impact on the offensive end," Curry said. "That will, again, feed off the way he impacts the game on the defensive end every game. So usually the high-IQ guys figure it out, and he's at the top of that list when it comes to understanding the game of basketball."

Brady, Buccaneers back on practice field, preparing to win

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady concedes a lot has happened in the four months that have passed since he announced through social media that he was walking away from the NFL after 22 seasons and seven Super Bowl championships.

For starters, the 44-year-old quarterback did an about-face and unretired six weeks later, citing "unfinished business" as one of the reasons for changing his mind and returning to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Brady subsequently also accepted a lucrative offer in broadcasting to join Fox as a football analyst after his playing career ends.

For now, though, he says he's just focused on helping the Bucs win another championship.

"It feels like a long time ago. A lot has happened between now and then," Brady said Thursday, shrugging off a question about why he hung up his cleats in early February only to reverse the decision in mid-March.

"I feel like I've kind of moved past that point to be honest. But I'm happy I'm back with my teammates. It's going to be a great year," he added at the conclusion of the team's three-day mandatory minicamp. "We have high expectations for what we're trying to accomplish."

Brady also talked about his relationship with former coach Bruce Arians, who retired a little more than two weeks after the NFL's career passing leader announced his return, and the future of long-time teammate Rob Gronkowski.

He spoke less candidly about whether he had discussions with the Miami Dolphins this spring about the prospect of moving to South Florida in some capacity — possibly as a part owner, player or even both.

AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) claps as he walks with Ryan Griffin (4) and Blaine Gabbert (11) during an NFL football minicamp Wednesday, June 8, 2022, in Tampa, Fla.

"Again, I had a lot of conversations with a lot of people, as I have for the last three or four years in my career, about different opportunities when I'm done playing football. I kind of made a decision about what I wanted to do, and I'll get to be in the game of football," Brady said.

"I think for me, the most important thing is where I'm at now and what I hope to do for this team," the quarterback added. "That's been my commitment to this team and this organization. It's been so much fun for me to come here two years ago. It's been about 2½ now, and it's been an incredible part of my football journey. And it's not over."

Brady, meanwhile, insisted he has a good relationship with Arians and did not play a role in the 69-year-old coach's decision to step down. Former New York Jets coach and Bucs defensive coordinator Todd Bowles was promoted as Arians' successor.

"Zero whatsoever," Brady said when asked if a rift had developed between him and Arians, who remains with the team as a senior football consultant.

ALL

From Page 20

right now."

In fact, Peter boasted that if they remove all the equipment and trucks they can actually start the Games.

"The venues are all ready—*va'a* at the 13 Fishermen Monument, golf at Coral Ocean Resort, weightlifting at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, baseball, badminton, and athletics at the Oleai Sports Complex, tennis at American Memorial Park tennis courts at Pacific Islands Club tennis courts, beach volleyball at Crown Plaza and Tinian, and triathlon on Rota….We could've actually started tennis yesterday," he said.

As for spectator seating, the MGOC chair said they also have that covered—literally.

"We're just finalizing the canopies of the two new 400-seat grandstands [beside the track oval]. It will complement the existing 200-seat concrete grandstand that's already there."

Ditto for the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field, where Peter said they're about to complete the installation of two 80-seat and one 100-seat bleachers for the venue.

"Pressbox is done too other than a little bit of touch ups on the electrical systems…we're also clearing up some of the road that is a little bit dusty but the fields of play are ready."

The baseball field, for all intents and purposes, is operational and Peter said the Palau team has already practiced there.

Peter also extended his gratitude to MGOC staff for working doubly hard in making the CNMI's Mini Games hosting a success.

"I'm so proud of everyone working in this 11th hour. Now, it's just about keeping everybody calm and keeping the heart rate down," he said in jest.

COFFA

From Page 20

warm-up area.

"The warm-up area is all standard. The equipment is the same one we used in the Olympic Games [last year] and the electronic equipment at the back is also the same we used in Tokyo. You can't go any higher than that."

Bar none, Coffa said MHS Gym is perfect to host not only the Mini Games but the 2022 Oceania Weightlifting Championships.

"I've attended 13 Pacific Games as technical delegate and I'm telling you today this is as good if not better than any other venues that I've attended."

While he conceded that the MHS Gym is not as huge as the one in Samoa, which had room for 3,000 spectators, Coffa reiterated that the "warm-up area is nothing like this."

He also gave the Mini Games Organizing Committee and CNMI Weightlifting points for procuring a world-class weightlifting platform for the event.

"It'll be noisy because the partition is not done with timber or anything to take the sound away but it doesn't matter because the fact is you have a world-class platform. This is the ultimate platform as this is the Rolex of weightlifting platforms."

Competition-wise, Coffa expects a lot of records will be broken with world-class lifters who have competed in the Olympic Games coming for this year's Mini Games.

One of the weightlifters he alluded to is his own ward, Australia's Eileen Cikamatana, who he deemed as one the best young weightlifters not only in Oceania but in the entire world.

"She's the greatest athlete Oceania has ever had," he said of Cikamatana, who's arriving on Wednesday.

Weightlifting will be held for four days starting on June 20. The Solomon Islands will have the most entries with 20 followed by Nauru and Fiji with 18 apiece, Northern Marianas and Tahiti with 14 each, Guam with 12, Samoa with six, Australia and PNG with five each, New Caledonia and Tuvalu with four each, Cook Islands and Vanuatu with two each, and Kiribati with one.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	44	16	.733	_
Toronto	35	24	.593	8½
Tampa Bay	35	25	.583	9
Boston	32	29	.525	12½
Baltimore	26	35	.426	18½

Central Division

Minnesota	35	27	.565	_
Cleveland	29	27	.518	3
Chicago	27	31	.466	6
Detroit	24	35	.407	9½
Kansas City	20	39	.339	13½

West Division

Houston	37	23	.617	_
Texas	28	31	.475	8½
Los Angeles	29	33	.468	9
Seattle	27	33	.450	10
Oakland	21	41	.339	17

EASTERN CONFERENCE

East Division

New York	40	22	.645	_
Atlanta	34	27	.557	5½
Philadelphia	30	30	.500	9
Miami	27	31	.466	11
Washington	23	39	.371	17

Central Division

St. Louis	34	27	.557	_
Milwaukee	34	28	.548	½
Pittsburgh	24	34	.414	8½
Chicago	23	36	.390	10
Cincinnati	21	39	.350	12½

West Division

Los Angeles	37	23	.617	_
San Diego	37	24	.607	½
San Francisco	33	26	.559	3½
Arizona	29	33	.468	9
Colorado	27	34	.443	10½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COBY

From Page 20

and Guam's Joe Blas and Ben Borja.

The Won sisters, meanwhile, made the women's all-tourney team along with Palau's Kristen Sugiyama and Guam's Mia San Nicolas and Derin Stinnett.

Santos led all scorers in the four-day tournament with an average of 22.8 points per game on 45.8% field goal percentage on 2-pointers, 71.4% from the three throw line, and 38.5% on 3-point shots.

E'Anna, meanwhile, led all cage belles in scoring with an 18.5 points per game clip in four games. Ky'Sonna was third overall with an average of 13 points per game.

E'Anna shot 44.1% on 2-pointers, 71.5% from the free throw line, and 30% from the land of plenty, while Ky'Sonna submitted percentages of 29.4%, 72.2%, and 21.1% from those areas of the court, respectively.

Santos' CNMI National Men's Basketball Team finished with a bronze medal, while the Wons' CNMI National Women's Basketball Team bagged the silver medal in the tourney.

Santos was glad to have been included in the All-Tournament Select team of the Micro Cup.

"Happy with what me and the team got. We gave it all we had despite our differences with the other teams. We know that we had a shot at that silver medal, but it just didn't come our way."

He added that more than the hardware, he's just happy that the men's team was able to experience this type of high-level basketball.

"At the end of the day we all had fun and played as a team. I saw my teammates giving everything they had to provide for the team and that felt good to know that we don't give up that easily even if it was for third place. I am happy with what we got, but I believe—and I hope my boys believe it too—we could've done better than bronze," added Santos.

The 20-year-old veteran of the Micronesian Games also thanked his family and friends for their support not only during the Micro Cup but throughout his basketball career.

"I would like to dedicate the [All-Tournament Select team] award to my family, friends, and all my coaches that believed in me. Without you guys, I know for a fact that I wouldn't be the player I am today. Thank you and God bless," he said.

For the Won sisters, being named in the All-Tournament Select team was the cherry on top of the ice cream that was the silver medal.

"Being named part of the all-star five means a lot to us and it makes it even more special that we were able to represent our island while doing so. Saipan will forever be our home. We wouldn't have been able to perform at this level though without the support of our teammates, coaches, family and of course hard work!"

The sisters also said the silver medal they won was worth all the sacrifices they've done the past few months.

"We're proud of our team and our silver medal win. We put in so much work and we got better everyday. Everyone, both the players and coaches, always put in 110% and our hard work definitely paid off."

CLUTCH GUAM

Coby Santos, second from left, was named to the All-Tournament Select team of 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup.

Braves win 11th straight, Phils have 9-game streak stopped

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brady, Buccaneers back on practice field, preparing to win

PAGE 19

'All venues are ready for play'

MARK RABAGO
The finishing touches on the Oleai Sports Complex is being done in earnest early yesterday morning. On the background is one of two 400-seat grandstands being constructed at the Oleai track and field.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With four days to go before the opening ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, the Oleai Sports Complex was a beehive of activity yesterday with construction workers putting the finishing touches on the quadrennial event's central hub.

Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter said they're making the final push to have everything ready for the Mini Games, which the CNMI will host for the first time ever from June 17 to 25.

"All the venues are ready for play. It's just the outskirts of the fields that need fixing," he said.

For the Oleai Sports Complex, the former lawmaker said everything's complete save for the cosmetic work like the fences and footpaths.

"Only the 'beautification' gates are being installed right now and everything from the track and field area to the baseball field will be done today…Play areas are done in all the venues. It's just the outside that needs to get cleared…We just need to clear out the equipment and sweep the surroundings. We're all just tidying up

See ALL on Page 19

Coby, Woo sisters named to all-tournament team

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Coby Santos and sisters E'Anna and Ky'Sonna Kwon were named to the All-Tournament Select team of 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup held last week at the UOG Calvo Fieldhouse.

Santos was joined in the men's all-tourney team by Palau's Jerry Ngiraremiang, Federated States of Micronesia's A.J. Bisalen,

See COBY on Page 19

CLUTCH GUAM
Sisters E'Anna, left, and Ky'Sonna Kwon, right, were named to the All-Tournament Select team of 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup.

Coffa impressed with weightlifting venue

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Oceania Weightlifting Federation secretary general and world-renowned weightlifting coach Paul Coffy is all praises for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 weightlifting venue at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The technical delegate for the Mini Games inspected the MHS Gym yesterday after arriving from his home in Australia last Sunday and came away impressed with the facility.

"Believe me this venue is of international standard—the equipment and the facilities. It's equal to the European Championships held last week in Albania. There's no difference," he said.

Coffa, who was a central figure in making Nauru and Samoa weightlifting powerhouses in the past, said what sets the 2022 Mini Games weightlifting venue is its superb

See COFFA on Page 19

MARK RABAGO
Oceania Weightlifting Federation secretary general and Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 technical delegate Paul Coffa, left, poses with CNMI Weightlifting secretary general Jeanne Rayphand at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.